

2016 Washington State Democratic Convention

Draft Platform

The Platform is a statement of beliefs and policy positions held by the Democratic Party of Washington. The Platform is updated every two years at the State Convention. This Draft Platform has been composed by the Platform Committee based on the 2014 State Platform, Platforms submitted by County Conventions and LD Caucuses, proposed amendments, and public comments.

Executive Summary

Preamble

Washington State Democrats, as citizens of the planet, place the well-being of the people as our highest priority. We believe in the values of community, empathy, equality, tolerance, opportunity, and the common good of the interdependent world we share.

Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Forestry

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

Arts and Culture

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

Civil and Human Rights

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

Corporate Power

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

Economic Justice, Jobs and Tax Fairness

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

Education

The backbone of our democracy is a free, universal public school system (pre-K through post-secondary), designed to educate informed, reasoning, and thoughtful persons who are critical-thinking lifelong learners prepared to participate in our civic society.

Energy, Environment, and the Climate Crisis

We must unite to prevent the destruction of the environment, our communities, and our planet. We must proactively address climate change as a crisis. All people, including future generations, have the right to clean air, water, and a healthy natural environment. The struggle to protect our planet's climate health must be seen as mutually dependent and interwoven with the struggles for racial and economic justice.

Foreign Policy

The United States should lead by example and work within the world community in a spirit of peace, cooperation and generosity to support human welfare, freedom, and democracy. We must not conduct preemptive war and make diplomacy and nonviolent conflict resolution the primary organizing principle of our foreign policy.

Government and 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 open to all; and public officials who are accountable to society.

Health Care

Health care is a basic human right. Government should work to improve our overall health, while assuring access to high-quality, affordable 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.

Human Services

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

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 fair, safe, and timely path to legal status or citizenship.

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.

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.

Media Reform

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

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.

Transportation

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

Tribal Relations and Sovereignty

Washington State must maintain a lasting and respectful relationship with Tribal Nations and oppose all attempts to diminish tribal sovereignty, tribal culture, land and natural resources or the general welfare of tribes located within the State of Washington.

I. Preamble

1 Washington State Democrats, as citizens of the planet, place the well-being of the
2 people as our highest priority. We believe in the values of community, empathy,
3 equality, tolerance, opportunity, and the common good of the interdependent world we
4 share. These values provide the basis for our ideals and are supported by our state and
5 federal Constitutions.

6
7 Our actions define our society, our freedoms, and our responsibilities. To fulfill the
8 potential of our values and ideals, we encourage every citizen to participate in civic
9 activities, including continuously raising awareness of the issues contained within this
10 Platform. The people have a right to expect their elected representatives to govern in a
11 manner that will protect and promote their civil liberties, human rights, and quality of
12 life.

13
14 We invite everyone to join us in advocating for legislation that ensures democracy,
15 peace, prosperity, liberty, and justice for all.

16
17 In order to restore progressive democracy, we expect elected Democrats to be
18 accountable and implement the principles of this platform, using all available legal and
19 parliamentary procedures.

II. Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Forestry

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

4 5 **We call for:**

- 6 • Incentives to encourage the agricultural skills, careers, and lifestyles that are
7 essential to our country's survival;
- 8 • A living wage for agricultural workers, regardless of whether they are citizens,
9 documented workers or undocumented workers;
- 10 • Strengthening the Washington State Growth Management Act and policies that
11 preserve agricultural land and natural resources, along with robust rural
12 infrastructure;
- 13 • Finalizing the publication of the Water Resource Inventory Act (WRIA) program
14 in order to expedite processing the backlog of water rights applications;
- 15 • Decisions about water resources based on sound, credible scientific and
16 economic information, including local concerns;
- 17 • Protecting wild salmon and other native marine life;
- 18 • Development of a comprehensive plan to enhance recovery of the Snake River
19 Salmon run while mitigating other impacts;
- 20 • Adoption of sustainable agriculture, aquaculture, fishery and forestry methods,
21 including adequate funding of research and extension efforts which include the
22 effects of climate change;
- 23 • Reduction of the use of pesticides and herbicides responsible for the collapse of
24 pollinator species and increased safeguards for workers who may be exposed to
25 them;
- 26 • Improving the inspections of domestic and imported foods and livestock to
27 ensure safe food and the humane treatment of livestock;
- 28 • Clear food labeling, including date packaged, full and complete disclosure of
29 nation of origin, genetically modified organism status, irradiation, and organic
30 certification;
- 31 • Supporting and encouraging vibrant and sustainable small farms, family farms
32 and urban farms;
- 33 • Localized marketing, community supported agriculture, and cooperative
34 localized marketing;
- 35 • Programs that support the establishment of permaculture and organic farms;
- 36 • Encouraging the use of locally grown food in our schools;
- 37 • Farmers who do not grow genetically modified crops to be protected from
38 liability and to have standing to recover their economic losses resulting from the
39 drift of genetically modified materials;
- 40 • Review of and updates to all farm programs;
- 41 • Rapid phase-out of federal farm subsidies for all large-scale, conventional farms;
- 42 • Vigorous enforcement of antitrust laws that apply to agribusiness;

- 43 • A guest worker program for agriculture, ensuring a reliable labor source while
- 44 extending application of minimum wage laws and legal protections to the
- 45 workforce and employers with proactive enforcement of violating employers;
- 46 • Reduction of antibiotic use in livestock production;
- 47 • Support of energy production and efficiencies on farms such as manure
- 48 digesters, wind turbines, etc.;
- 49 • Legalizing, regulating and recognizing industrial hemp as an agricultural
- 50 commodity.

51

52 **We oppose:**

- 53 • Privatization of any and all public water holdings;
- 54 • Use of edible products for the manufacture of bio-fuels (e.g., ethanol from
- 55 maize);
- 56 • Importing of commodities below their production and transportation costs.

III. Arts and Culture

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

4
5 “Art” refers to all arts, including the visual (painting, drawing, sculpture, etc.),
6 performing (music, theater, dance, circus, etc.), literary (poetry, prose, drama, etc.),
7 media (photography, film, digital, etc.), and culinary (cooking, baking, brewing, etc.).
8

9 **We call for:**

- 10 • Easy access and frequent exposure to public art events, performances, and
11 exhibits for all communities in Washington;
- 12 • All cultures to not only be accepted, but celebrated and shared;
- 13 • Arts and cultural education to be considered as a core subject in our K-12 public
14 schools;
- 15 • Arts and cultural education opportunities to be available beyond our K-12
16 schools, and accessible to all ages;
- 17 • A substantial commitment to public funding for the arts and arts education;
- 18 • Publicly subsidized and affordable housing to be available to artists to encourage
19 them to create and share their crafts locally;
- 20 • Small businesses to promote the arts;
- 21 • Our community of diverse cultures to be encouraged, welcomed, and supported,
22 including art galleries/studios, performance venues, cafes, restaurants,
23 bookstores, music stores, and private art and culturally focused schools;
- 24 • Public venues for art and cultural festivals, events, performances, and exhibits to
25 be made readily available;
- 26 • Libraries, performing arts centers and museums to be well-funded, accessible,
27 and diverse in their offerings;
- 28 • Communications about arts and cultural events, performances, and exhibits to all
29 our communities to be frequent, accessible, and diversified;
- 30 • Communications about available funding and opportunities for artists to be
31 frequent, accessible, and diversified;
- 32 • Existing public art displays and venues to be well maintained and preserved;
- 33 • Arts and cultural exchanges to represent the State of Washington across the
34 United States and abroad;
- 35 • Public/private partnerships to be developed further to help promote and create
36 art and cultural experiences.

IV. Civil and Human Rights

1 The inherent dignity and equal and inalienable rights of all human beings are
2 foundations of freedom, justice and peace. Our democracy rests on the rights and
3 responsibilities set forth in the United States Constitution, the United Nations Universal
4 Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of
5 Indigenous People, and the Washington State Constitution. We recognize that our
6 nation and Party have long struggled to acknowledge and address the systemic and
7 structural racism woven throughout its political, economic, and cultural history, and
8 the fabric of our nation, and that persists in many forms to this day. Democrats remain
9 at the forefront of the struggle to extend civil, political, economic, religious, and all legal
10 and inherent rights to all persons.

11

We believe:

- 13 • Our government derives its legitimacy solely from the People;
- 14 • In a transparent, impartial application and enforcement of law;
- 15 • Black lives matter;
- 16 • We must identify, challenge, and eradicate the underlying conditions that give
17 rise to the glaring inequalities around us;
- 18 • Free and open voting is foundational to democracy;
- 19 • In the consistent application of constitutional checks and balances and oversight
20 among the branches of our government;
- 21 • Privacy is fundamental; our private lives and personal information must be
22 protected from intrusion by government or others;
- 23 • Human rights include access to food, water, shelter, safety, health care;
24 education, employment, legal aid, and due process;
- 25 • Discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, military
26 service, insurance, licensing or education based on age, race, ethnic origin,
27 national origin, language, religion, sex, gender identity and expression, sexual
28 orientation, marital status, parenthood, disability, physical size, economic status,
29 or political affiliation is wrong;
- 30 • Each person has the right to sovereignty over their own body;
- 31 • The right to marry, as a legal union of consenting adults, without regard to
32 sexual orientation or gender-identity, should be preserved;
- 33 • The right of working people to unionize is a fundamental civil right;
- 34 • The right of an individual to practice their religion does not extend to the denial
35 of the constitutional rights of others;
- 36 • In the separation of church and state, and that no entity has the right to impose
37 its religious doctrine on others.

38

We call for:

- 40 • Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment;
- 41 • The right of all women to be free of government, corporate, or religious
42 interference in their reproductive decisions, including contraception and
43 abortion, and to have safe, legal, protected, affordable and accessible health care
44 that enables them to make informed choices;

- 45 • Honoring the rich diversity of society and efforts to reflect that diversity in our
46 Party, including special consideration to be paid to the rights of currently and
47 historically marginalized communities, including individuals with disabilities,
48 immigrants, peoples of color, indigenous people, the very poor, and religious
49 minorities and atheists; those who face discrimination to be afforded the legal
50 means and economic opportunities to overcome such injustice;
- 51 • Policies that will strengthen our country by affirming the value of all individuals,
52 and by eliminating the systemic conditions that perpetuate inequality,
53 oppression, and lack of equal access to opportunities;
- 54 • Respecting the rights of all adults, including seniors and persons with
55 disabilities, to direct their own lives in housing, education and all other life
56 choices to the extent of their abilities;
- 57 • Adding enforcement provisions to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990,
58 as amended;
- 59 • Equal pay for equal work;
- 60 • The end of human trafficking for the sex trade and all other forms of involuntary
61 servitude;
- 62 • Strong legislation, treatment programs and education designed to reduce
63 harassment, intimidation, domestic or sexual violence, and bullying.

64

65 **We oppose:**

- 66 • Warrantless wiretapping and searches of American citizens;
- 67 • Discrimination against LGBTQ people on parenting rights.

V. Corporate Power

1 Corporations are artificial entities, and not entitled to Constitutional protections as
2 persons. We oppose the undue influence of corporations on our society, government
3 and political process.

4 **We call for:**

- 6 • Amending the Constitution to firmly establish that corporations are not people
7 and that money is not speech;
- 8 • Separating investment banking from commercial and retail banking and
9 subjecting both to tighter regulation, transparency, and accountability;
- 10 • Full enforcement of antitrust laws. Any corporate entity with holdings so
11 extensive that its failure would cause major disruptions of the national economy
12 must be broken into smaller entities to ensure healthy, competitive markets and
13 protect consumers;
- 14 • International trade based on fair trade that includes living wages, environmental
15 protection and human rights;
- 16 • Corporations, foreign or domestic, must not be allowed via any trade agreement
17 or treaty to demand compensation of “lost profits” caused by laws and
18 regulations meant to protect peoples’ well-being or to ensure safe, sustainable
19 use of natural resources;
- 20 • Increased exports of manufactured goods and decreased exports of raw resource
21 material through use of tariffs and taxes;
- 22 • Governments to hold natural resources such as land, water, and timber in trust
23 for citizens. Lease law rates for harvesting of public resources must be updated
24 annually and set at fair market value. Corporations must leave the lands, waters,
25 and air in an environmentally sound, sustainable state;
- 26 • Requiring corporations that adversely impact the sustainability of the natural
27 environment in populated areas to be required to do remediation (mitigation)
28 on-site or at least in the same neighborhood, so that the value of natural
29 environment is not lost to the citizens in the neighborhood;
- 30 • Strengthening and enforcing laws against corporate crime, with penalties to
31 include prison time for executives and revoking corporate charters;
- 32 • The derivatives market to be tightly regulated or abolished;
- 33 • Repealing subsidies or tax reductions to U.S. based firms that outsource jobs
34 overseas;
- 35 • Multinational companies to pay their fair share of U.S. taxes and be prohibited
36 from using foreign tax havens, and their status as U.S.-based corporations or
37 their ability to do business in the U.S., or federal business overseas, should be
38 forfeited by those who violate these tenets;
- 39 • Reinstating the windfall profits tax;
- 40 • Promotion of corporate structures owned only by the corporate employees (a.k.a.
41 Employee Stock Ownership Plan companies);
- 42 • Whistleblower laws to be strengthened and enforced to provide active protection
43 and restitution for any whistleblowers who lose their livelihoods;

- 44 • Requiring organizations dedicated primarily to drafting and promoting
45 corporate-backed legislation to register as lobbying organizations and denying
46 them tax-exempt status;
- 47 • Prohibiting United States companies from engaging or enabling practices abroad
48 that would be prohibited at home;
- 49 • Prohibiting the import or export of products made by exploiting the
50 environment, local communities, and people;
- 51 • Prohibiting multinational corporations, their affiliates, subsidiaries, and/or
52 franchises from operating in violation of international law;
- 53 • Outlawing the sale of, and importation to, the United States of all products of
54 forced labor and child labor;
- 55 • Increased oversight of companies vital to our economy and environment, such as
56 those in banking and fossil fuel extraction.

57

58 **We oppose:**

- 59 • Attempts to weaken and underfund the powers of the Consumer Financial
60 Protection Bureau;
- 61 • Corporations terminating defined benefit retirement plans;
- 62 • Foreign ownership and management of our ports, highways, bridges, pipelines,
63 and other infrastructure assets which are crucial to our national safety and
64 security;
- 65 • Patent and copyright laws that grant corporations monopolies over
66 unnecessarily long terms;
- 67 • Corporations exerting undue influence on our government through access to
68 regulatory commissions and drafting congressional and state legislation.

VI. Economic Justice, Jobs and Tax Fairness

1 “Taxes, after all, are the dues we pay for the privilege of membership in an organized
2 society.” - *Franklin Delano Roosevelt*

3
4 Income inequality is the driving issue of our time. We are committed to a sustainable
5 economy with strong communities based on living-wage jobs, tax fairness, and shared
6 prosperity.

7 8 **We call for:**

- 9 • An incremental increase in the state and federal minimum wage, with a living
10 wage as the goal;
- 11 • Funding and rebuilding our infrastructure as a proven method of job creation;
- 12 • A progressive tax system at both the federal and state level, including taxing
13 unearned income at the same rate as earned income, a state income tax offset by
14 cuts in regressive taxes (e.g. sales tax), a state capital gains tax, eliminating the
15 Business and Occupation tax in favor of a flat 1% corporate income tax, and a 0.25%
16 financial transaction tax on Wall Street trading;
- 17 • Economic justice on women’s issues such as social security reform, pension
18 reform, living wages, pay equity, job discrimination, child care, paid sick, safe,
19 and family leave, and reproductive rights;
- 20 • Economic justice on parental issues such as pension reform, living wages, job
21 discrimination, child care, and paid sick, safe, and family leave;
- 22 • Increasing the rate of food assistance;
- 23 • Updating the federal poverty level to reflect reality and thereafter adjusting it
24 according to cost of living;
- 25 • A budget that represents tax exemptions as expenditures to be part of the
26 biennial appropriations process;
- 27 • Targeted economic development incentives to businesses that provide verifiable,
28 immediate, and lasting benefits to our communities;
- 29 • Repealing tax breaks and incentives for companies that do not provide verifiable
30 net benefits to the state and requiring them to make restitution; subjecting tax
31 exemptions to renewal every 4 years;
- 32 • Greater transparency on the part of federal financial institutions;
- 33 • Restoration of the Glass Steagall Act;
- 34 • Settling student debt with a program that bases repayment on a percentage of
35 earnings and forgives the balance after 20 years;
- 36 • Reducing or eliminating graduate student debt in exchange for 10 years of
37 critically needed in-state public service in certain professions;
- 38 • Reversing the 2006 federal bankruptcy law to include discharge of mortgages
39 and student debt in bankruptcy court;
- 40 • Opportunity for young people by encouraging the utilization of state approved
41 apprenticeship programs and fully funding AmeriCorps and Job Corps
42 programs;

- 43 • Creating a new civilian conservation corps to address natural resources needs;
- 44 • Until a living wage is achieved, increasing eligibility for the Earned Income Tax
- 45 Credit to help the working poor;
- 46 • Removing the cap on income subject to Social Security tax;
- 47 • Enhancing Social Security so that no recipient lives in poverty;
- 48 • Taxing carried interest from private equity and hedge funds as ordinary income;
- 49 • A major increase in funding for assistance and construction of affordable and low-
- 50 income housing in Washington State;
- 51 • Improving and implementing property tax breaks on primary residences of low-
- 52 income homeowners and small businesses;
- 53 • A fair system of paying for growth, including urban growth, with impact fees;
- 54 • Local, state and federal governments to develop **Buy Local, Build Local** priority
- 55 policies that support diverse and resilient local economies;
- 56 • Support for small businesses, including tax credits, low-interest loans, tax
- 57 abatement development zones for start-ups and non-profit micro-lending;
- 58 • Establishment of a Washington State Investment Trust (i.e. a state bank);
- 59 • Using post offices to provide bank services for low-income people;
- 60 • Re-establishing and maintaining usury laws capping all interest rates at the level
- 61 allowed to credit unions;
- 62 • Only those multilateral trade agreements that are conditioned on environmental,
- 63 health and safety standards, human rights and workers' rights, and which support
- 64 transparent democratic processes.

65

66 **We oppose:**

- 67 • Excessive corporate profits and executive compensation;
- 68 • Privatization of Social Security or reduction of benefits;
- 69 • Privatization, downsizing, outsourcing, and offshoring of public services;
- 70 • Excessive fees and excessive interest charged to consumers by short-term lending
- 71 corporations;
- 72 • The use of credit scores for hiring and insurance rating;
- 73 • Taxing unemployment, worker compensation and Social Security benefits;
- 74 • Any constitutional amendment that requires an un-democratic two-thirds vote in
- 75 the Legislature to raise revenues;
- 76 • Forced arbitration clauses in all consumer contracts, warranties, guarantees, etc.

VII. Education

1 “It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provisions for the education of all
2 children.” - *The Washington State Constitution*

3
4 The backbone of our democracy is a free, universal public school system (pre-K through
5 post-secondary), designed to educate informed, reasoning, and thoughtful persons who
6 are critical-thinking lifelong learners prepared to participate in our civic society. The
7 growing demands of globalization, technology, and cross-cultural understanding
8 require a well-funded public education system that offers the challenges and
9 opportunities to develop the full potential of all students for a skilled workforce,
10 regardless of their background, economic status, experience, ability, or age. We
11 recognize the direct connection between individual educational attainment and the
12 long-term economic sustainability of our society.

We call for:

- 15 • The Washington State Legislature to fulfill its constitutional duty to “make
16 ample provisions for the education of all children” as reaffirmed by the
17 Washington State Supreme Court in the McCleary decision;
- 18 • Free access and full funding of public education, including all basic, gifted,
19 vocational, technical, alternative, special education, English Language
20 Learners, and other state/federal programs and mandates;
- 21 • Funding for smaller class sizes based on effective class size studies;
- 22 • Full funding of Head Start and Early Childhood Education and Assisted
23 Programs;
- 24 • Schools to be free from weapons, violence, bullying, harassment, retribution
25 (by staff and students), drugs and alcohol;
- 26 • Full inclusion of all students into the school environment, regardless of age,
27 race, ethnic origin, national origin, language, religion, sex, gender identity
28 and expression, sexual orientation, marital status, parenthood, disability,
29 physical size, economic status, or political affiliation;
- 30 • Particular regard for the educational and human services needs of the student
31 who is or has been sexually active, or is pregnant;
- 32 • Particular regard for the educational and human services needs of specific
33 populations, including students who are in foster care, homeless, migrants, or
34 undocumented;
- 35 • School academic and behavioral health counselors, librarians, and nurses
36 sufficient to serve the needs of every student;
- 37 • The availability of high quality continuing education and career training,
38 including school-to-work partnerships and apprenticeship programs, in
39 addition to traditional higher education for adult workers;
- 40 • The inclusion of music, fine arts, environmental education, foreign language
41 instruction, civics and physical education in the Washington Basic Education
42 Act, beginning in Kindergarten;
- 43 • A curriculum that is rigorous, comprehensive, and historically and
44 scientifically accurate at all levels and that recognizes the cultural
45 perspectives of children from diverse and indigenous communities;

- 46 • Instructional freedom that is student-centered within the curriculum;
- 47 • Parental participation that supports student learning;
- 48 • Programs to teach awareness on ways to reduce individual and local
- 49 environmental impacts;
- 50 • Full funding for the repair and maintenance of public schools for the health
- 51 and safety of our children;
- 52 • Full funding for school transportation;
- 53 • Purchase of equipment and technology in compliance with the Americans
- 54 With Disabilities Act;
- 55 • Free education to extend through public community college and
- 56 vocational/technical schools;
- 57 • All high school graduates in the United States to have access to public higher
- 58 education regardless of means;
- 59 • A Pay-It-Forward, Pay-It-Back funding mechanism for higher education,
- 60 whereby a student receives a free public four-year higher education and pays
- 61 back a percentage of their income;
- 62 • Legislation that significantly lowers the interest rate on student loans and
- 63 finds ways to relieve the financial stress of college students and retroactively
- 64 for graduate students burdened with huge student debt;
- 65 • Simple majority elections for school bonds and protection of the simple
- 66 majority for school levies;
- 67 • Encouraging high school community-based service;
- 68 • Encouraging that high schools offer courses in personal finance;
- 69 • Local and state control of policies concerning public education while
- 70 complying with federal oversight and receiving federal funding to preserve
- 71 quality, fairness and civil rights for all;
- 72 • Public education employees' rights to organize, engage in collective
- 73 bargaining, and strike without fear of reprisal or replacement;
- 74 • Education funding equity regardless of district tax base, with a new funding
- 75 formula for public schools and capital projects;
- 76 • Salary and benefits for adjunct and part-time college instructors to be based
- 77 on compensation levels for full-time professional staff, according to
- 78 percentage of full-time equivalency;
- 79 • Certificated and classified employees' compensation equal to those of other
- 80 professionals of similar experience and backgrounds to attract/retain quality
- 81 public school employees;
- 82 • Partial student loan forgiveness and loan consolidation at the federal level;
- 83 • Congress to reform policies that deny federal tuition aid to college students
- 84 convicted of drug possession;
- 85 • Work/study programs and programs offering higher education in exchange
- 86 for public service to be expanded, and Pell grants to be increased and
- 87 adjusted for inflation until such time as a fully tuition-free public college
- 88 system is established;
- 89 • Full funding and implementation of the Washington State Board of Health's
- 90 revised rules for health and safety of school environments;
- 91 • School food programs that ensure all students have access to nutritious meals
- 92 and local foods that support healthy habits and classroom learning;

- 93 • High-quality before- and after-school programs, and learning opportunities
- 94 to address summer learning loss;
- 95 • School discipline that is results-oriented;
- 96 • Support and mandated use of open educational resources (textbooks) in
- 97 higher education;
- 98 • Full funding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
- 99

100 **We oppose:**

- 101 • Charter schools and the trigger mechanism allowing charter school takeover
- 102 of the public school spaces. All public schools should be subject to full public
- 103 accountability for student progress and fiscal responsibility;
- 104 • Vouchers;
- 105 • The commercialization of school environments including food sales;
- 106 • Linking military recruitment to educational funding;
- 107 • Organized prayer in public schools;
- 108 • National standardized performance testing;
- 109 • Basing teacher pay in whole or in part on student test scores;
- 110 • All so-called “reforms” that are not based upon sound and objective
- 111 information; that are disguised attempts to blame teachers for the problems in
- 112 public education to weaken teacher unions; or to privatize our public
- 113 education system for profit;
- 114 • The escalation of tuition at institutions of higher education;
- 115 • The reduction or elimination of recess as a regular part of elementary school
- 116 education;
- 117 • Suppression of unpopular research and research results, and curtailment of
- 118 academic freedom.

VIII. Energy, Environment, and the Climate Crisis

1 We must unite to prevent the destruction of the environment, our communities, and our
2 planet. We must proactively address climate change as a crisis. All people, including
3 future generations, have the right to clean air, water, and a healthy natural
4 environment. The struggle to protect our planet's climate health must be seen as
5 mutually dependent and interwoven with the struggles for racial and economic justice.
6 The communities hit hardest by the effects of climate change tend to be impoverished
7 communities of color, the very groups that are contributing the least to climate change.
8

9 **We believe:**

- 10 • Both our economic stability and the health of our environment depend on sound
11 policy decisions incorporating the best scientific evidence;
- 12 • Sustainable energy production and strong environmental protections strengthen
13 our economy and our country;
- 14 • Public discussion and education should occur at all levels of community and
15 government about how and why to reduce resource and energy consumption;
- 16 • Policies must promote biodiversity, ecosystem and watershed protection, and
17 restoration of wild salmon and endangered species;
- 18 • Managing public lands as a public trust benefits us all;
- 19 • Washington State should lead national and international efforts to reduce
20 greenhouse gases and mitigate climate change.
21

22 **We call for:**

- 23 • Immediate aggressive action to minimize climate change, as global climate
24 change is the foremost threat to survival of Earth as we know it;
- 25 • Requiring that environmental impact assessments consider the full scope of
26 every proposal, avoiding the segmentation of projects to reduce identified
27 impacts;
- 28 • Research and program funding to develop and implement safe, clean alternative
29 energy solutions and to encourage resource conservation;
- 30 • Expanded programs and incentives for consumers and businesses to encourage
31 energy conservation and use of renewable and environmentally responsible
32 energy, use of energy efficient and renewable sources of power and energy
33 distribution technologies;
- 34 • The Tri-Party Agreement and other efforts of Washington State to ensure that
35 Hanford Site clean-up is promptly completed and that the Columbia River's
36 water quality is protected from the Hanford Site's historic contamination;
- 37 • Conserving resources and promoting sustainability through recycling and waste
38 reduction efforts;
- 39 • Protecting our critical environmental areas, including wilderness areas, old
40 growth forests, wildlife habitat areas and corridors, wetlands, lakes, streams,
41 riparian areas, the Columbia River, Puget Sound, coastlines, oceans, and other
42 bodies of water through vigilant monitoring and planned growth management;

- 43 • Protecting environmentally sensitive areas by prohibiting oil, gas, and mineral
44 exploration, extraction, and transportation in such areas;
- 45 • Protecting environmentally sensitive areas by prohibiting waste disposal, storage
46 or treatment in such areas;
- 47 • Promoting development of a residential solar energy program to supply
48 electricity to the power grid;
- 49 • Promoting the implementation of a price on carbon dioxide pollution to
50 internalize the costs of increased air pollution and climate change from fossil
51 fuels because no significant progress can be made on transitioning away from
52 fossil fuels until they are significantly taxed on the pollution they are creating in
53 the environment;
- 54 • A long term national energy policy with realistic and comprehensive planning;
- 55 • Enacting new laws and enforcing current regulations to eliminate pollution to
56 Washington waters at the source;
- 57 • Enhancing preservation of marine ecosystems from tanker and cargo vessel
58 collisions, unlawful discharges and spills of petroleum based products, and bilge
59 water pumping operations containing invasive aquatic species from foreign
60 ports;
- 61 • Acceptance of the framework known as “just transition” to ensure ongoing
62 employment for workers as the world shifts from fossil fuels to non-carbon based
63 economies.

64

65 **We oppose:**

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

IX. Foreign Policy

1 The United States should lead by example and work within the world community in a
2 spirit of peace, cooperation and generosity to support human welfare, freedom, and
3 democracy. We must not conduct preemptive war and make diplomacy and nonviolent
4 conflict resolution the primary organizing principle of our foreign policy.
5

6 **We believe:**

- 7 • The United States should provide proportionate assistance and work
8 cooperatively with other nations to build a more peaceful, sustainable, and stable
9 world by addressing root causes of conflict, including poverty, inequitable access
10 to natural resources, economic injustice, and environmental degradation;
- 11 • We must protect our nation from external threats without suppressing basic
12 human rights at home and abroad;
- 13 • The United States should work closely and persistently with other countries to
14 prevent or stop genocide anywhere it occurs;
- 15 • Our government should not engage in covert efforts to destabilize other nations'
16 governments.
17

18 **We call for:**

- 19 • Honoring and upholding the rights, welfare, and healthy environment of all
20 indigenous people;
- 21 • Freezing the assets of leaders of repressive regimes and banning military exports
22 to such countries;
- 23 • Participation in and funding of multilateral peacekeeping missions;
- 24 • Revision of the War Powers Act to ensure that Congress can declare an end to a
25 war or other military action;
- 26 • Cooperative and fully funded participation in international organizations
27 including the United Nations and international courts of justice, provided that
28 the national security interests of the United States are protected;
- 29 • Honoring ratification of international treaties protecting civilian populations,
30 human rights, and addressing climate change;
- 31 • An effective, comprehensive plan to ensure our security while protecting our
32 constitutional rights and the human rights of all;
- 33 • Working with other nations to pursue law enforcement action against terrorist
34 networks rather than military intervention;
- 35 • Effective foreign aid to reduce poverty, and improve access to the necessities of
36 life;
- 37 • Promoting programs that support all voluntary forms of evidence-based, safe,
38 and effective family planning worldwide;
- 39 • Fair trade among nations based on sound environmental principles, sustainable
40 agriculture and manufacturing, and democratic and economic rights of the
41 workforce;
- 42 • Renegotiating international free trade agreements to deal adequately and
43 transparently with human rights, the rights of indigenous peoples, labor rights,
44 and environmental rights and laws to make them fair trade agreements;

- 45 • Rebuilding Iraq and Afghanistan’s civilian infrastructure and economy using
46 international agencies and local labor;
- 47 • Changing our diplomatic engagement with multiple parties in southern and
48 southwest Asia, including Afghanistan and Pakistan, to work toward peaceful
49 resolution of existing conflicts;
- 50 • Leading global efforts to prevent the radicalization of religions;
- 51 • Serious, full, constructive, and persistent United States engagement to promote
52 negotiations and other actions that will lead to a peaceful, sustainable resolution
53 of the Israeli–Palestinian conflict, based on mutual recognition and ensuring
54 security, economic growth, and quality of life for the peoples of the sovereign
55 state of Palestine and the sovereign state of Israel, supporting the equal human
56 rights of both Israelis and Palestinians and being unequivocally opposed to the
57 illegal settlements in the Palestinian Territories and policies that support them;
- 58 • The ratification of the Iran nuclear deal;
- 59 • Political and economic self-determination for the Cuban people and continue
60 normalization of relations with Cuba, including an end to the United States-
61 imposed embargo and travel ban;
- 62 • Ending the use of United States tax money to fund, train or sponsor military or
63 police forces that suppress human and civil rights in foreign countries;
- 64 • Reduction of nuclear arsenals, strengthening international control of fissile
65 material to include “depleted” uranium (dU), and nonproliferation of nuclear
66 weapons by limiting use of fissile material to peaceful purposes;
- 67 • Using foreign aid to offset or forgive onerous debt of countries forced to choose
68 between debt repayment and essential services;
- 69 • The United States government’s working with transnational corporations and
70 lending institutions, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank to
71 improve regulation of financial systems to prevent economic disruptions;
- 72 • A foreign policy that encourages struggling economies worldwide to engage in
73 economic growth policies, such as infrastructure investment, without compelling
74 privatization of government services or natural resources as a way to refinance
75 nations’ debts;
- 76 • The restoration of our historic adherence to the Geneva and Vienna Conventions
77 in their entirety;
- 78 • Support giving developing countries more influence in the running of the
79 International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

80

81 **We oppose:**

- 82 • Exportation of offensive weapons systems, such as “depleted” uranium (dU),
83 chemical, nuclear, or biological weapons, that contribute to destabilization in
84 international relations and the international arms race;
- 85 • Extraordinary rendition, the abduction of persons of any nationality, their
86 detention in secret prisons, and torture;
- 87 • Rape as a tool of war and the lack of action to stop such rape from occurring;
- 88 • Trade agreements negotiated in secret without public interest representation;
- 89 • Foreign policies that put the profit-making interests of corporations above the
90 rights, laws, and interests of governments or workers, such as the Trans-Pacific
91 Partnership (TPP);

- 92
- 93
- 94
- Forced austerity measures, including privatization of government services, as a condition of U.S. aid and U.S. support for loans through the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

X. Government and Political Reform

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

6 7 **We believe:**

- 8 • An informed citizenry and civil discourse are necessary to a functioning
9 democracy;
- 10 • Elected officials are responsible to society as a whole;
- 11 • Government is not a business. Government actions should support the common
12 good, and taxes should be levied fairly and spent responsibly;
- 13 • Government should be protected from undue influence by corporate and other
14 special interests;
- 15 • Government officials must be held to the highest standards of ethical conduct;
- 16 • Government has a responsibility to make voting as easy as possible by removing
17 all obstacles to voting;
- 18 • All U.S. citizens should be eligible to vote at their 18th birthday; and that any
19 attempts to interfere with voting, recording, storing, and tallying votes should be
20 punishable by law;
- 21 • Nonviolent action is the preferred way to advocate for political change.

22 23 **We call for:**

- 24 • Legislation to protect the integrity and transparency of federal elections by
25 establishing disclosure requirements for all contributions;
- 26 • Public financing of elections to promote a more even playing field where all
27 Americans can participate, thus empowering the people in the political process;
- 28 • Elimination of all forms of voter suppression;
- 29 • Exploration of electoral processes intended to increase voter participation and
30 confidence in our electoral system, including such significant changes as
31 replacing the electoral college with a popular vote of the people to elect the
32 President, mail-in voting, multi-member districts with proportional
33 representation, and instant runoff voting;
- 34 • Making voter suppression illegal;
- 35 • Full and timely disclosure of sources of all campaign funds including
36 contribution limits, spending limits, and disclosure of campaign contributions;
- 37 • State funding of public debates for statewide offices and ballot measures;
- 38 • Preserving the integrity of electoral processes:
 - 39 ○ All votes should be cast on carefully monitored, secured human-readable
40 paper ballots, and the machines used to produce, tabulate, store, and
41 manage election data must use open-source software;
 - 42 ○ Mandatory auditing should be conducted according to the protocols
43 recommended by the American Statistical Association should be required
44 for all jurisdictions, and should be open to the public to witness;

- 45 • Campaign and debate processes that include third-party and so-called second-
46 tier candidates;
- 47 • Full Congressional representation for residents of the District of Columbia and
48 statehood for any U.S. Territory that votes for it;
- 49 • A Constitutional amendment providing for direct election of the United States
50 President;
- 51 • Minimizing the influence of special interests and lobbyists on our political
52 processes by instituting campaign finance reform;
- 53 • Restrictions on former state and federal elected officials from lobbying for five
54 years after leaving office;
- 55 • Taxpayer-funded scientific research that becomes part of the public domain and
56 informs policy and regulatory decisions affecting our health, safety, and
57 environment;
- 58 • All regulatory agencies to be adequately funded, staffed and fully accountable;
- 59 • A federal legislative process that limits filibusters, ends anonymous holds on
60 appointments and other dilatory tactics, and requires a simple majority to invoke
61 cloture;
- 62 • Establishing a cabinet-level Department of Peace and Nonviolent Conflict
63 Resolution whose Secretary will advise the President on both domestic and
64 international issues and fund programs proven to prevent violence;
- 65 • Adequate and equitable funding of public service options for all young adults
66 when they complete their secondary education or reach maturity, including
67 AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, Job Corps, and other avenues of service;
- 68 • Restoration and strict enforcement of the Freedom of Information Act and Open
69 Meetings Act to ensure open and honest government;
- 70 • A review of all Washington laws on “eminent domain” to ensure that no private
71 property may be taken for private purposes and that all seizures are
72 compensated in a fair and equitable manner;
- 73 • Enactment of revenue measures by simple-majority votes in the Washington
74 State Legislature, as specified in the State Constitution;
- 75 • Accounting all tax exemptions as expenditures in the state budget and
76 automatically sun-setting non-performing state tax exemptions after five years;
- 77 • Maintaining the United States Postal Service as a core function of government;
- 78 • A publicly searchable database of all registered lobbyists, lobbying expenditures,
79 and financial and in-kind contributions to candidates and ballot measures;
- 80 • Inclusion of funding of all military actions in open Congressional budgets;
- 81 • Establishment of a state bank to handle and profit from state revenues;
- 82 • Equal access to public airwaves for all viable candidates in all localities and in all
83 national, state, and local elections;
- 84 • Enforcement of sunshine laws and transparency in sessions that discuss and
85 make public policy;
- 86 • Open Data initiatives to make federal, state, and local government more
87 transparent and accountable to the people of Washington and the people of the
88 United States;
- 89 • Requiring paid voter signature gatherers for ballot initiatives to have a placard
90 stating who they work for and who is paying them;

- 91 • Redistricting Washington State by a less politicized and more citizen-driven
- 92 process to create more politically and demographically balanced districts;
- 93 • Counting felons, for census purposes, as residents of their last home address,
- 94 rather than their place of imprisonment;
- 95 • Public utilities for potable water, sewage disposal, drainage management, roads,
- 96 energy, and telecommunications that are, to the maximum extent feasible,
- 97 publicly owned and operated.
- 98

99 **We oppose:**

- 100 • The privatization, outsourcing, or off-shoring of any governmental public
- 101 service;
- 102 • Governmental suppression, manipulation and distortion of scientific research
- 103 and findings, and psychological operations and disinformation/ manipulation
- 104 campaigns that leave the public uninformed or misinformed;
- 105 • Adding projects to bills by “earmarking” funds without the knowledge of other
- 106 legislators and the public;
- 107 • Executive branch secrecy beyond legitimate security needs or personnel matters;
- 108 • Using “signing statements” to effectively invalidate a portion of the legislation
- 109 being signed into law;
- 110 • Efforts by the government to deny citizens their right to peacefully assemble in
- 111 order to petition for a redress of grievances;
- 112 • Any practice that reveals national election results while voting is still taking
- 113 place;
- 114 • Taxpayer funding for religious institutions or "faith-based" initiatives that do not
- 115 include non-discrimination requirements.

XI. Health Care

1 Health care is a basic human right. Government should work to improve our overall
2 health, while assuring access to high-quality, affordable care for everyone. Patients
3 must have the right to access and choice between all lawful medical treatment options,
4 without hindrance by institutions exercising religious doctrine.
5

6 To protect individuals, as well as communities, Washington State should provide a
7 distributed comprehensive continuum of public Mental Health Care.
8

9 **We call for:**

- 10 • An affordable universal single-payer system to provide the most equitable and
11 effective health care, serving both individual and public health needs;
- 12 • Our state to apply for a waiver under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care
13 Act to establish a single payer system for Washington residents until such time
14 as a single-payer system is enacted nationally;
- 15 • Sustained Washington State non-Medicaid funding to protect the vulnerable
16 populations not covered by Federal Medicaid;
- 17 • Health care coverage to be comprehensive - including outpatient and inpatient
18 services; acute and long-term care; home care, palliative care, end-of-life
19 counseling, and hospice; mental health care and substance-abuse programs;
20 dental, vision and hearing services; preventive services; family planning with
21 contraception and access to safe abortions; prescription drugs, medical supplies,
22 durable medical equipment and medical technology; and rehabilitation;
- 23 • Patients to have freedom of choice in their health care, including the right to
24 refuse medical care, and to select a personal provider and a "medical home," a
25 team that provides coordinated care with continuity. Medical decisions should
26 be patient-centered, made primarily among patients, their families and
27 providers;
- 28 • Reduction of health care costs in innovative ways that improve quality of care
29 but do not cut effective benefits nor limit enrollment;
- 30 • The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services to be empowered to negotiate
31 prices for medical devices and drugs;
- 32 • Health insurance programs to cover all forms of reproductive services and
33 methods that are legal in Washington State, in accord with the principles of
34 reproductive parity;
- 35 • Transparency in pricing of health care services;
- 36 • Access to women's reproductive healthcare, including public funding for
37 Planned Parenthood;
- 38 • FDA approval of new treatments based on solid data from reputable clinical
39 trials that demonstrate both safety and effectiveness;
- 40 • FDA to provide the funding necessary for researching and monitoring the safety
41 of our food supply, and ensuring that drugs and medical devices are safe;

- 42 • A strong public health system that promotes conditions leading to better health
43 for the entire population, based on sound scientific principles and following
44 recommendations made by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
45 (CDC);
- 46 • Congress to lift the ban on, and fund, gun-violence research through the CDC
47 and National Institutes of Health (NIH); gun violence is a public health issue;
- 48 • Government education grants and student-debt forgiveness for primary care
49 providers, in exchange for service to underserved populations;
- 50 • Expanded funding of basic science and clinical research under the NIH, based on
51 scientific merit, not a political agenda;
- 52 • Support of a patient's right to decision-making and other provisions of the Death
53 With Dignity Act;
- 54 • Continued funding for HIV/AIDS-related education and care;
- 55 • Early intervention and preventive services for mental health, continuing through
56 medically appropriate crisis care and community reintegration services;
- 57 • Full coverage of transgender medical costs, including full transitions;
- 58 • Full implementation of mental health and substance abuse parity with complete
59 phase-out of existing exemptions and implementation of regulatory standards
60 and enforcement of mental health parity laws;
- 61 • Full funding and implementation of the Washington State Board of Health's
62 rules for health and safety of school environments [WAC 246-366].

63

64 **We oppose:**

- 65 • Privatizing or rationing Medicare, or raising the age of Medicare eligibility;
- 66 • For-profit medical insurance;
- 67 • Over-diagnosis and over-treatment, which lead to poor quality care at increased
68 cost to the system;
- 69 • Direct-to-consumer advertising of prescription drugs and devices;
- 70 • The excessive profits and lobbying efforts of Big Pharma;
- 71 • Denial of legal medical treatment or prescription purchase based on the personal
72 religious beliefs of medical and/or pharmaceutical personnel;
- 73 • Mergers with religious health care institutions that result in directives restricting
74 their medical staff from providing the full range of health care options,
75 including:
 - 76 • Abortions;
 - 77 • Contraceptive sterilizations;
 - 78 • In vitro fertilization;
 - 79 • Prescribing or dispensing contraceptives and contraceptive devices such as
80 IUDs and diaphragms, emergency contraception, and condoms;
 - 81 • End-of-life decision making.

XII. Human Services

1 “The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable
2 members” – *Mahatma Gandhi*

3
4 As a caring community, we must provide a safety net of social services that meets the
5 basic needs of people, especially those on the margins of society, so they can attain their
6 full potential.

7 8 **We call for:**

- 9 • An integrated, culturally competent, linguistically accessible human services
10 network based on the needs of the individual, rather than the requirements of the
11 service provider;
- 12 • Integrated health clinics in public schools that support the needs of the whole child;
- 13 • Assuring that all people have access to safe and affordable housing, including
14 emergency housing;
- 15 • Ending homelessness by meeting people’s varied needs;
- 16 • Services to assure that homelessness is rare, brief and one-time, and that all people
17 have access to safe affordable housing, including the Housing First policy for
18 individuals with substance abuse issues or mental illness;
- 19 • Helping working parents by fully funding services for people with quality
20 affordable childcare, education, training, and medical and behavioral health care;
- 21 • Fully funding services for people with disabilities so they may reach their full
22 potential;
- 23 • Programs that rehabilitate and reintegrate people into the community;
- 24 • Taxpayer-funded social services that cannot be conditional on faith-based
25 requirements;
- 26 • Restructuring and adequately funding the foster child system to ensure appropriate
27 protection, oversight and self-supporting adulthood;
- 28 • Improved oversight of elder care, including a long-term care system that provides
29 in-home elder care alternatives to nursing homes;
- 30 • Adequately supporting programs that rehabilitate and reintegrate people
31 experiencing substance abuse issues or mental illness, in addition to programs
32 based on crisis and emergency response;
- 33 • Congress to provide adequate assistance, including but not limited to the
34 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, earned income tax credit, child tax
35 credit, housing and child care – so children of low-income families can perform at
36 grade level.

XIII. Immigration

1 We are a nation of diverse cultures. Immigrants strengthen the United States of
2 America. All immigrants should be afforded full human rights and a fair, safe, and
3 timely path to legal status or citizenship.
4

We believe:

- 5 • All people, regardless of their country of origin or their immigration status,
6 deserve to be treated fairly, respectfully, and with dignity, and that all people
7 have a right to equal treatment under the law;
8
- 9 • All children regardless of immigration status are entitled to education to provide
10 them the knowledge and skills to be productive members of society;
11
- 12 • In allowing access to health care and human services without regard to
13 immigration status; withholding those services is discriminatory and inhumane;
14
- 15 • Immigration is not a matter of homeland security;
16
- 17 • All detainees should have the right to humane treatment, safe facilities, adequate
18 medical care, nutrition, clothing, and shelter.

We call for:

- 18 • Urgent comprehensive reform of United States immigration policy;
19
- 20 • Protecting the integrity of our borders while recognizing the basic human rights
21 of immigrants and protecting them with transparent due process in all
22 proceedings and a clear and equitable pathway to documented status and
23 citizenship if desired;
24
- 25 • Increasing family unification, including families of domestic partners and bi-
26 national couples, by granting legal status with the same standards as spouses of
27 citizens;
28
- 29 • Allowing undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children
30 who have attained the age of majority to apply for U.S. citizenship without first
31 being required to return to their country of origin;
32
- 33 • A more comprehensive “Dream Act” for young adults to enter a path of
34 achievement that can lead to United States citizenship;
35
- 36 • Extending temporary residency to children of undocumented immigrants to
37 allow them to pursue higher education or national service and to be given an
38 opportunity to earn permanent residency;
39
- 40 • Enforcement of the laws which penalize employers who knowingly employ
41 undocumented immigrants;
42
- 43 • Provide legal access for employers to an immigrant workforce, such as a guest
44 worker program;
45
- 46 • Policies that fully integrate and support immigrants as equal members of our
47 communities, including programs offering immigrants instruction in English,
48 interpretative and translation services of governmental documents and services,
49 and preparation for citizenship;
50
- 51 • Policies that encourage foreign students to remain in the United States and give
52 them an opportunity to earn permanent residency;

- 45 • An expeditious process to clear the immigration backlog and avoid lengthy
46 detentions for adults and children;
- 47 • An end to deportation or detention of family members of natural-born U.S.
48 citizens;
- 49 • An end to deportation or detention without due process of law;
- 50 • Streamlining and expediting procedures for granting asylum to persons fleeing
51 from areas of war, genocide, and political oppression, subject to appropriate
52 security concerns;
- 53 • Provisions to prevent discrimination in wages and working conditions for
54 immigrant workers, including access to safe and adequate housing, medical care
55 and educational opportunities;
- 56 • Using diplomacy and sustainable development to improve the social, economic
57 and environmental conditions that contribute to undocumented immigration
58 into the United States.

59

60 **We oppose:**

- 61 • The use of the term “illegal” to refer to any human being;
- 62 • State or local police involvement in the enforcement of federal immigration laws;
- 63 • Border Patrol checkpoints away from the border and the engagement of Border
64 Patrol agents in ordinary law enforcement activities, including providing routine
65 translation services;
- 66 • The use of for-profit prisons by Immigration, Customs and Enforcements (ICE)
67 used for the detention of immigrants;
- 68 • Demands for immediate presentation of documents regarding one’s status in the
69 United States;
- 70 • Efforts to deputize, commission, finance, or otherwise encourage vigilante border
71 militia groups in the United States;
- 72 • Automatic detention and/or deportation of asylum-seekers;
- 73 • Legislative attempts to establish English as the sole official language of the
74 United States;
- 75 • Unjust and arbitrary quotas, limits, and other immigration rules that have the
76 primary purpose of preventing new immigration;
- 77 • The use of work visas, such as H(1)(b) and H(2)(a) visas, as a substitute for
78 hiring U.S. citizens;
- 79 • Policies that exclude or demean immigrants based on religion or country of
80 origin.

XIV. Labor

1 “No one who works full time should have to live in poverty.” – *President Barack Obama*

2
3 A strong economy and nation depend on jobs that provide safe working conditions, fair
4 and living wages, and benefits for all workers, with hourly wages indexed to the cost of
5 living. Every worker must have the right to organize and bargain collectively to
6 determine their pay, benefits, and working conditions. Organized labor is essential to
7 the social, economic, and political health of our democracy. The decline of real wages
8 over the past three decades, accompanied by powerful anti-union political attacks,
9 intensifies the need for the protective efforts of a strong union movement.

10 11 **We believe:**

- 12 • Workers are dedicated, industrious and competitive;
- 13 • Workers deserve respect and a living wage; we define a living wage as the wage
14 necessary for a person working forty hours a week, with no additional income, to
15 afford decent housing, food, utilities, transport, and health care;
- 16 • Workers must have a safe and harassment-free work environment that meets
17 state and federal standards;
- 18 • Workers’ rights to organize, to join a union, to enjoy due process, and to bargain
19 collectively without any interference, intimidation or threats from employers or
20 the government shall not be abridged or denied;
- 21 • Workers have the right to a General Strike;
- 22 • Workers must have retirement and health benefits that are portable between
23 employers;
- 24 • Workers need to have better access to education and training in order to be
25 competitive in a world market of jobs;
- 26 • Workers’ wages should be commensurate with increases in productivity;
- 27 • Workers, public as well as private, must participate in the government social
28 security program.

29 30 **We call for:**

- 31 • Prevailing wage laws for work under government contracts and/or for
32 government purposes;
- 33 • “Best Value Contractor” policies and “Fair Contracting” with “Responsible and
34 Responsive” bidder language in all public work jobs that include contractor
35 responsibilities for prevailing wages, health insurance, retirement and training
36 and to include a performance audit;
- 37 • Area standards for wages and benefits;
- 38 • State approved apprentice utilization, and a percentage local hiring clause where
39 qualified workers are available on government agencies funded, financed, or
40 involved in projects;
- 41 • Unemployment insurance that is supported and extended when economic
42 conditions warrant;
- 43 • Workers compensation managed and monitored by the state;

- 44 • Unemployment and retraining benefits for workers laid off or locked out by their
45 employers, including those whose jobs are outsourced, downgraded, or
46 eliminated;
- 47 • Protection of overtime pay;
- 48 • The automatic recognition of a union based on signatures of a majority of those
49 represented and “Card Check” as a legitimate method for unionizing;
- 50 • A workers' bill of rights that includes rights of assembly, association and free
51 speech, due process, freedom from discrimination; and democracy within
52 unions;
- 53 • Equal participation between labor and employers in the management of workers’
54 pensions;
- 55 • Competitive and commensurate wages for all workers, whether they are private
56 sector, non-profit, or state and local government employees;
- 57 • Veterans, women, people of color, people with disabilities and sexual minorities
58 earning equal compensation for equivalent work;
- 59 • Establishment and enforcement of healthy workplace laws, including anti-
60 bullying and anti-harassment laws;
- 61 • Safe and adequate housing, medical care and sanitary facilities for all workers,
62 including temporary, migrant, seasonal and contract workers;
- 63 • Paid sick, safe, and family leave for both private and public employees in shops
64 of more than four full time equivalent employees;
- 65 • Creation of an accrual system for paid leave for all workers;
- 66 • Withholding federal contracts from United States corporations that choose to
67 locate “offshore” for tax shelter purposes;
- 68 • Full funding for programs such as childcare, adult daycare, and flextime to care
69 for family members;
- 70 • Child labor standards that limit the hours youths are allowed to be employed
71 during the school year;
- 72 • An incremental increase in the state and federal minimum wage, to reach \$15.00
73 per hour by 2020, with regular increases thereafter, indexed to inflation;
- 74 • Respecting picket lines by not crossing them;
- 75 • Workers negotiating agency fees or “Fair Share” clauses into labor agreements;
- 76 • Government and private industry to recover and make available to the workers
77 medical and industrial hygiene records related to all workers so that they are
78 paid just compensation for any injuries or illnesses incurred during their
79 employment or as a result of their employment;
- 80 • Prosecution of employers who force workers to work off the clock;
- 81 • Full enforcement of current health and safety labor laws and prosecution of those
82 employers that violate those laws;
- 83 • The publication of the official unemployment statistics that include persons who
84 are underemployed or have given up looking for work, or whose benefits have
85 been exhausted;
- 86 • Strengthening, fully funding and staffing the National Labor Relations Board
87 and the imposition of meaningful penalties on employers engaged in unfair
88 practices;
- 89 • Preference for Washington State residents on public works projects;
- 90 • Market-based compensation for public employees;

- 91 • Buying American – the use of U.S. products in manufacturing and in
- 92 construction;
- 93 • Rescinding the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006 so that the
- 94 postal service may return to fiscal soundness;
- 95 • Expanded and more effective “whistle blower” protection for all workers at all
- 96 levels on all public and private jobs with access to courts and protection from
- 97 retaliation;
- 98 • Strengthening solidarity of domestic and foreign workers and their unions both
- 99 domestically and internationally in a globalized economy;
- 100 • Re-examination of Taft-Hartley and other existing anti-union legislation, to
- 101 strengthen workers’ rights.
- 102

103 **We oppose:**

- 104 • “Right-to-work” and other anti-union legislation;
- 105 • Any attacks on the Davis-Bacon Acts, prevailing wage laws;
- 106 • Exploitation of seasonal, temporary, migrant and contract workers;
- 107 • Corporations using mergers and bankruptcy courts to abscond with workers’
- 108 pensions;
- 109 • Under-funding of pension liabilities by either the private or public sector;
- 110 • Foreign trade agreements, such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), that put the
- 111 interests of corporations above the rights of workers and environmental
- 112 protections that overrule the authority of federal, state, and local governments;
- 113 • Using tips as part of a minimum wage calculation;
- 114 • Use of permanent replacement workers during strikes;
- 115 • Supplanting or displacing public employees with low-wage, low-benefit contract
- 116 employees or prison labor;
- 117 • The unilateral redefining of workers as independent contractors to reduce labor
- 118 costs, rendering workers ineligible for benefits and other protection;
- 119 • The privatization of workers compensation;
- 120 • Firing without just cause;
- 121 • Public employee pension reductions by the legislature;
- 122 • Balancing the public budget with pension funds;
- 123 • Gratuitous attacks by elected officials’ upon labor organizations, public and
- 124 private employees;
- 125 • Release of personal information of publicly funded employees;
- 126 • Any attempt to privatize the social security retirement system;
- 127 • Any attempt to cut Social Security benefits or raise retirement age;
- 128 • Hiring policies that discriminate against unemployed applicants, felons, and
- 129 military veterans with a discharge other than honorable.

XV. Law and the Justice System

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

4 5 **We believe:**

- 6 • All people are equal before the law. Criminal justice and human rights are
7 inseparable;
- 8 • Nonviolent conflict resolution, education, youth programs, health care, social
9 services, rehabilitation, and living wage jobs will reduce crime and violence;
- 10 • Drug treatment and education should be used to reduce drug abuse and
11 associated crime;
- 12 • In the stringent enforcement of laws regulating the purchase and ownership of
13 firearms, while respecting the rights of responsible gun owners;
- 14 • In adequate state funding for indigent defendants in criminal cases;
- 15 • In timely DNA testing to free the innocent and convict the guilty;
- 16 • The criminal justice system is the appropriate venue for prosecution of all violent
17 crimes, including acts of terrorism;
- 18 • In the separation of church and state;
- 19 • In supporting the efforts of well-trained first responders.

20 21 **We call for:**

- 22 • Affirming and valuing the role of law enforcement in protecting human life and
23 serving the community;
- 24 • Training for law enforcement and corrections officers that emphasize the sanctity
25 of life and prioritize de-escalation techniques, implicit bias training, and how to
26 serve more appropriately people with mental health issues so that officers are
27 better prepared to address all situations in a safe and humane manner;
- 28 • Police forces to be demilitarized and held accountable for abusive practices and
29 the improper use of deadly force;
- 30 • Efforts to improve community-police relations by exploring strategies to provide
31 civilian oversight or review of situations where human and civil rights concerns
32 arise regarding police practices;
- 33 • Immediate and comprehensive action to end racial profiling and the
34 disproportionately high imprisonment of people of color, and to reduce the
35 U.S.'s overall incarceration rate, which is the highest in the world;
- 36 • Incarceration that prioritizes rehabilitation, with a focus on education and
37 occupational training, over punitive measures such as solitary confinement;
- 38 • Providing all ex-offenders with the opportunity to re-enter and be productive
39 members of society, including reinstating their voting rights;
- 40 • A civilized nation that does not execute people;
- 41 • Gun policies that include instant background checks and a ban on assault
42 weapons;
- 43 • Restoring habeas corpus for citizens and non-citizens, completely and without
44 compromise;

- 45 • Full funding of the Violence Against Women Act, services to crime victims, and
- 46 programs to prevent sexual violence;
- 47 • Ending the war on drugs; drug addiction is a public health problem not cured by
- 48 incarceration;
- 49 • Data-driven drug education, better funded drug courts, timely treatment and
- 50 community-based aftercare for offenders who need it;
- 51 • The decriminalization nationwide of marijuana sales or possession, and calling
- 52 on banks authorized to handle proceeds from marijuana sales in states where it
- 53 has been legalized. The ban on medical marijuana research must be repealed and
- 54 such research funded by the NIH;
- 55 • Convictions for possession of marijuana to be expunged and such prisoners
- 56 immediately released;
- 57 • Asset seizures to be based on court conviction rather than mere arrest or
- 58 presumption of guilt;
- 59 • Adequate punishments for white collar crime, including appropriate fines and
- 60 jail time commensurate with the damage done to society;
- 61 • Ending the privatization of prisons, Immigration and Customs Enforcement
- 62 (ICE), and juvenile detention facilities;
- 63 • The creation and funding of alternatives to incarceration within the criminal
- 64 justice system at both the pre-conviction stage and the post-conviction stage;
- 65 • Comprehensive gun-sale background checks, including criminal, mental health,
- 66 and domestic violence checks, and waiting periods, applicable to gun shows and
- 67 other transactions; mandatory registration and licensing; required safe gun
- 68 storage; safety training for all gun owners; a limit on volume buys of firearms by
- 69 an individual; and a total ban on assault weapons and oversized ammunition
- 70 magazines;
- 71 • Enforcement of criminal negligence laws that hold adults responsible for
- 72 safeguarding guns around children;
- 73 • Rapid and consistent follow-up from probation services for violations;
- 74 • Allowing foreign nationals to have access to consular officials if accused of a
- 75 crime; human rights and open hearing for all immigrants;
- 76 • Providing of a skilled interpreter and immigration assistant and community
- 77 advocacy representative prior to the signing of a document that affects
- 78 immigration status;
- 79 • All U.S. Territories and protectorates, including the Mariana Islands and
- 80 Guantanamo Bay, to be subject to U. S. law including labor laws, due process,
- 81 habeas corpus, and laws against illegal detention;
- 82 • Investigation and prosecution of illegal actions of elected officials and corporate
- 83 officers no matter how high their office;
- 84 • Repealing the USAPATRIOT Act;
- 85 • Human rights and open hearings for all immigrants;
- 86 • Enforcement of the Hate Crime Prevention Act;
- 87 • Our nation to invest in children and work actively to abolish poverty in order to
- 88 eliminate a major cause of crime. We must break the school-to-prison pipeline;
- 89 • Ongoing cultural sensitivity training for all public service government agencies;
- 90 • Providing adequate funding for indigent defendants in criminal, civil, and family
- 91 court cases;

- 92 • Congress and the U.S. Justice Department to investigate possible war crimes by
- 93 the Bush administration;
- 94 • The right to a civil trial by jury;
- 95 • Increased government efforts, including data collection, and legislation to
- 96 address adequate minority representation on juries;
- 97 • State and local efforts to train law enforcement to treat sex workers as victims.

98

99 **We oppose:**

- 100 • Mandatory sentencing, coerced labor for detainees and inmates, prisons
- 101 outsourced out-of-state and the use of prison labor on any contract bid in the
- 102 State of Washington that competes with private enterprise;
- 103 • Exemption from independent investigation or prosecution of any government
- 104 officer responsible for ordering or participating in violation of domestic or
- 105 international law;
- 106 • Excessive use of force by police and the militarization of police and demand
- 107 restraint in their dealing with peaceful assembly and protest;
- 108 • “Stand Your Ground” laws that legalize shooting-first;
- 109 • Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) intervention in our local court
- 110 system;
- 111 • Government spying on persons including the use of drone technology and
- 112 collection of personal meta-data without a legal warrant, which is a violation of
- 113 4th Amendment protections against search and seizure.

XVI. Media Reform

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

3
4 **We believe:**

- 5 • Democracy relies upon an informed citizenry;
- 6 • A free press is essential and valuable for democracy, for governance and for
7 human development;
- 8 • The public airways and the internet must serve all Americans and must not be
9 controlled by a few corporations.

10
11 **We call for:**

- 12 • Efforts by the Federal Communications Commission (FEC) to promote local
13 ownership and diversity of viewpoints and reduce monopolization of media
14 outlets;
- 15 • Ample funding for public broadcasting to promote independence and
16 discourage reliance on corporate sponsorships;
- 17 • Internet neutrality laws and policies, so that a few media companies will not
18 have undue control over internet search results and internet content;
- 19 • Reinstatement of station ownership caps, which were repealed in 1996, to limit
20 the number of television stations and new outlets one media conglomerate may
21 own and operate;
- 22 • FCC enforcement of existing statutes that require disclosure of “true identity” of
23 sponsors of political advertising;
- 24 • Efforts to bring the U.S. up to world standards by providing affordable, high-
25 quality internet access for all in every region in the country;
- 26 • Management of broadcast frequencies and the Internet, which are owned by the
27 public, in a way that serves the public interest;
- 28 • Encouraging media ownership by women and minorities, and community media
29 ownership;
- 30 • Strengthening community-level, non-profit and non-commercial radio and TV;
- 31 • Reinstatement of the Fairness Doctrine for broadcast media during election
32 campaigns and making it applicable to cable networks, to promote greater
33 balance in coverage;
- 34 • Public radio and public television to be accorded adequate, stable funding free of
35 political pressure;
- 36 • Reporting from theaters of war to be free of censorship, except as necessary to
37 avoid revealing tactical information or endangering our troops;
- 38 • Prompt adjudication of claims of “national security” and other questionable
39 classifications that delay timely news investigations and suppress investigative
40 journalism;
- 41 • Journalists to be protected from unwarranted pressure to reveal their sources
42 (shield laws);
- 43 • Companies to fairly compensate local governments for their use of the public
44 rights-of-way;

- 45 • Privacy of personal information including account user names and passwords;
- 46 • Television Washington (TVW) to be carried statewide by all carriers including
- 47 internet;
- 48 • The enforcement of 47 USC § 315 - Candidates for Public Office. (The Equal
- 49 Opportunities requirement; censorship prohibition; allowance of station use;
- 50 news appearances exception; public interest; public issues discussion
- 51 opportunities to all government controlled bandwidth and full funding and strict
- 52 enforcement thereof); and extension to all publicly regulated media outlets;
- 53 • Exemption of non-commercial broadcasting from any requirement to take paid
- 54 advertisements.

55

56 **We oppose:**

- 57 • False and misleading (wrong and inaccurate) information spread by newspapers
- 58 and radio or television programs under the guise of news.

XVII. Military and Veterans Affairs

1 We pledge support of our troops and honor our veterans who act in the service of our
2 country. The core task of the U.S. military is to provide for the common defense. Our
3 military must be adequate to provide for our nation's defense and should never be open
4 to abuses of power by any branch of government.
5

6 **We believe:**

- 7 • It is the task of the military to execute the legal directives issued by the civilian
8 Commander in Chief;
- 9 • Under the Constitution it is the duty of Congress to declare war, appropriate
10 funds, provide oversight, and act to prevent the misuse of the military;
- 11 • Our military service members – active duty, reserve and National Guard – are
12 entitled to serve with a clear mission and adequate resources;
- 13 • Female military personnel and all others who rely on Tricare and military
14 medical facilities have the right to make their own reproductive decisions, with
15 the same rights accorded to civilians;
- 16 • We support the introduction of universal service for all US citizens with
17 allowance for alternatives to military service.
18

19 **We call for:**

- 20 • Military service on our behalf to be performed only by individuals accountable to
21 the public, the law, and the Uniform Code of Military Justice, not by contractors
22 exempt from those restrictions;
- 23 • Military members who declare themselves conscientious objectors to be given
24 due process without fear of reprisal;
- 25 • Full prosecution for all sexual assault or harassment based on gender, religion,
26 ethnicity, or sexual orientation by military personnel;
- 27 • Removing jurisdiction in cases of sexual assault between members of the US
28 military from the direct chain of command over either the complainant or the
29 accused;
- 30 • The proper education of our armed forces that respects the common dignity and
31 civil rights of human beings;
- 32 • Troops to be accorded mandatory breaks between overseas tours, strict time
33 limits on each tour of duty in a combat zone, and strict limits on the total number
34 of combat tours;
- 35 • Routine inspections of facilities by the office of Inspector General and procedures
36 to insure facility integrity and safety;
- 37 • Providing financial assistance, daycare assistance, and no-cost life insurance
38 supplements for families of all military personnel deployed to hostile or combat
39 areas;
- 40 • Ensuring that military personnel retain full enlistment bonuses despite being
41 discharged for combat-related disabilities;
- 42 • Enforcement of the Geneva Conventions, through all levels of command, in the
43 treatment of all prisoners of war, enemy combatants, and detainees regardless of
44 the location of their incarceration;

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- 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;
 - 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;
 - Fully funding VA services;
 - Increased 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 service men and women, 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.

77 **We oppose:**

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- 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.

XVIII. Transportation

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

3
4 **We call for:**

- 5 • Significant public input and oversight into major transportation public works;
- 6 • Policies and public funding that make travel as safe and efficient as possible for
7 all modes of transportation, motorized and non-motorized;
- 8 • Expanding and enhancing accessible, safe, affordable and efficient public
9 transportation, including bus, rapid transit and light rail;
- 10 • Investments in public infrastructure that broaden individuals' multimodal
11 transportation choices;
- 12 • Encouraging the development of alternative energy for transportation;
- 13 • Instituting measures to reduce pollution and dependence on fossil fuels,
14 including increased fuel efficiency standards for all vehicles;
- 15 • Land use planning that works toward the goal of decreasing the need to drive;
- 16 • An increased use of rail for passenger service and shipment of local agricultural
17 and manufactured products while managing our rail system to prevent its
18 domination by coal and oil shipments;
- 19 • Washington's executive agencies and Legislature to adopt policies and laws to
20 minimize public safety dangers to our state caused by transportation of fossil
21 fuels and other hazardous materials;
- 22 • Development of a statewide system of charging stations to encourage use of
23 electric vehicles, including but not limited to a tax credit;
- 24 • A dual-track high-speed rail system with a dedicated right of way to link major
25 cities;
- 26 • An integrated partnership for travel through ridership jurisdictions;
- 27 • Maintaining existing public right-of-way for future public use;
- 28 • Expansion of the Regional Reduced Fare Permit to all transit agencies
29 throughout the state of Washington to make it easier for travelers to transfer
30 between transit agencies;
- 31 • Assistance to other transit agencies to join a common statewide payment card
32 system to make it easier for persons who rely on public transit to transfer
33 between transit agencies;
- 34 • Governments to invest in continued local access to needed transportation
35 infrastructure, including rural road and highway maintenance and
36 improvement, ensuring that consideration be given to those cities and counties
37 outside of the I-5 and I-90 corridor;
- 38 • Consideration of freight mobility in all proposed transportation infrastructure
39 projects;
- 40 • Adequately staffed, maintained and funded publicly-operated ferry systems, as
41 they are a critical part of the overall transportation system;
- 42 • Consideration of climate change, health effects, and environmental impacts
43 including water, earth and air pollution in all transportation planning;

- 44 • Protecting the rights of workers of transportation network companies to
45 organize;
- 46 • A strong US Merchant Marine and support of the Jones Act, and we believe in
47 abolishing the Flag of Convenience System which ship owners use to avoid
48 labor, tax, and environmental laws.

49

50 We oppose transportation infrastructure privatization.

XIX. Tribal Relations and Sovereignty

1 Washington State must maintain a lasting and respectful relationship with Tribal
2 Nations and oppose all attempts to diminish tribal sovereignty, tribal culture, land and
3 natural resources or the general welfare of tribes located within the State of
4 Washington.

5 6 **We call for:**

- 7 • Upholding the Treaties, Executive Orders, Agreements, etc. made between
8 Indian tribes and the Federal Government which secured specific rights and
9 privileges to sustain the future of Indian tribes;
- 10 • Supporting the principles of Indian Self-Determination throughout Washington
11 State government;
- 12 • Recognizing the unique history and cultural relationships the lands, waterways,
13 usual and accustomed areas in the state are valued among the Indian tribes and
14 communities;
- 15 • Elevating the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs to a Cabinet level agency with
16 appropriate funding in order to properly respect the inherent sovereignty of the
17 tribes;
- 18 • Establishing and maintaining a meaningful government-to-government
19 relationship with tribes that includes consulting with tribes prior to proposing or
20 supporting legislation or policies that impact tribes;
- 21 • Supporting the intertribal consortia such as Affiliated Tribes of Northwest
22 Indians (ATNI);
- 23 • Amending regulations to streamline the federal recognition process of Indian
24 tribes, and providing regulations for recognition of a Native Hawaiian Nation;
- 25 • Recognizing that tribes are meaningful contributors to the state's economy and
26 by working with tribes to remove barriers, such as state taxation, to tribal
27 economic development;
- 28 • Streamlining state and federal funding and programs that support tribes having
29 the flexibility to develop their economies;
- 30 • Working with tribes to remove barriers to capital development funds for Tribal
31 nations;
- 32 • Working with tribes in the state's effort, such as Results Washington, to develop
33 the state's economy;
- 34 • Funding the American Indian Health Commission for Washington State in its
35 work with four state agencies and the Health Benefit Exchange;
- 36 • Authorizing the licensing of mid-level dental professionals, such as dental health
37 aide therapists, to address the lack of access to dental care;
- 38 • Supporting the construction of one or more tribal specialty care facilities to
39 address the lack of access to medical specialists and shift health care costs from
40 the state to the federal government to fulfill its trust responsibility;
- 41 • Funding the urban Indian health organizations to enable them to address more
42 of the health needs of Native Americans in urban areas who do not have access
43 to tribal health facilities;

- 44 • Making a stronger effort to communicate and appoint tribal citizens to state
45 boards and commissions in order to provide an equitable and fair representation
46 in these policy and decision making entities;
- 47 • Funding cultural, health and mental health service organizations that advance
48 the socio-economic conditions for on- and off-reservation tribal communities;
- 49 • Eliminating the harmful legacy of “Indian Mascots” in all sports;
- 50 • Recognizing the principles in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of
51 Indigenous Peoples;
- 52 • Supporting the rights of tribes to regulate and manage their own environment
53 and natural resources, including the right to hunt, fish and gather in their
54 traditional usual and accustomed places;
- 55 • Fully engaging and including tribes in discussions and actions regarding climate
56 change and water appropriation;
- 57 • Fully engaging and including tribes in state land management plans;
- 58 • Upholding the vision and goals of Indian Education and Self-Determination in
59 all aspects of Indian Education at the preschool through higher education and
60 life-long learning;
- 61 • Promoting the essential role of Native families and parent committees in the
62 decision-making process of their children’s education, health and well-being;
- 63 • Continuing the development of Tribal Compact Schools;
- 64 • Continuing the implementation of the state mandated “Since Time Immemorial”
65 Tribal Sovereignty curriculum;
- 66 • Continuing the consultation with state and federal Indian education programs;
- 67 • Retaining enrolled members of tribes to the extent possible under fair and
68 transparent rules, without any attempt to remove members in order to favor
69 remaining members in the distribution of tribal assets.

70

71 **We Oppose:**

- 72 • The abuse of any tribal treaty or tribal agreement by any party or tribal
73 government;
- 74 • The efforts of any group that support forced assimilation and its distortion of
75 United States History.