

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.

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.

Culture and Arts

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.

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.

Environment, Energy, 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. Diplomacy and nonviolent conflict resolution must be the primary organizing principles 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 and regardless of ability to pay.

Housing Justice

We believe that safe, quality, affordable housing is a basic human right, and the foundation for success in life, education and employment.

Human Rights and Civil 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.

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.

Reducing Gun Violence

We believe that laws should protect all the lives of all people of our state, especially vulnerable populations, such as our school children, from gun violence.

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

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2 As Americans and citizens of the planet, we place the well-being of the earth and its people as
3 our highest priority. We are the party of the people. We value community, empathy, equality,
4 acceptance, diversity, opportunity, accountability and the common good of the interdependent
5 world we share. These values are the basis for our ideals and are supported by our state and
6 federal Constitutions.

7 As Democrats, we believe cooperation is better than conflict, unity is better than division,
8 liberation is better than oppression and bridges are better than walls. We are stronger together.
9 Yet, to remain strong requires us to humbly acknowledge the past, specifically that many of our
10 Democratic forebears promoted, defended and benefitted from the enslavement, exploitation
11 and marginalization of certain peoples, including communities of color, womxn, religious
12 minorities, people with disabilities and people who identify as LGBTQ+. Many Democrats
13 excluded these groups from party membership and leadership and suppressed their right to
14 vote and to participate as full members of our democracy.

15 We offer this platform in the spirit of hope, healing and reconciliation. We commit ourselves to
16 addressing the critical issues of our time, such as civil rights, inequality in all its forms, climate
17 change, and continued and strong commitment to peace. We strive to make the American
18 dream a reality for everyone, with quality schools, jobs, homes and medical care grounded in a
19 government that serves and protects its people.

20 In order to restore progressive democracy, we hold elected Democrats accountable to actively
21 and publicly use all available legal and parliamentary procedures to bring these principles into
22 fruition.

- 1 • Reduction of the use of pesticides and herbicides, both commercial and residential, and
2 the rapid phase out of pesticides and herbicides responsible for the collapse of pollinator
3 species and increased safeguards for workers who may be exposed to them;
- 4 • Improving the inspections of domestic and imported foods and livestock to ensure safe
5 food and the humane treatment of livestock;
- 6 • Clear food labeling, including date packaged, full and complete disclosure of nation of
7 origin, genetically modified organism status, irradiation, and organic certification;
- 8 • Supporting and encouraging vibrant and sustainable small farms, family farms and
9 urban farms;
- 10 • Localized marketing, community supported agriculture, and cooperative localized
11 marketing;
- 12 • Programs that support the establishment of permaculture, bee production, and organic
13 farms;
- 14 • Legalizing, regulating and recognizing industrial hemp as an agricultural commodity.
- 15 • Encouraging the use of locally grown food in our schools;
- 16 • Farmers who do not grow genetically modified crops to be protected from liability and to
17 have standing to recover their economic losses resulting from the drift of genetically
18 modified materials;
- 19 • Review of and updates to all farm programs;
- 20 • Rapid phase-out of federal farm subsidies for all large-scale, corporate farms;
- 21 • Vigorous enforcement of antitrust laws that apply to agribusiness;
- 22 • Support of energy production and efficiencies on farms such as manure digesters, wind
23 turbines, etc.

24

25 **We oppose:**

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- 27 • Privatization of any and all public water holdings or diversion of agricultural water for
28 private commercial use;
- 29 • Importing of commodities below their production and transportation costs.
- 30 • AG-GAG Bills which restrict whistle blowers and any other unethical abuses in the
31 agricultural industry.

III. Corporate Power

Neither “We the People” nor the Constitution of the United States recognize corporations as “Citizens”. Therefore, corporations are not entitled to any rights that either equal or exceed those of “human” citizens, including free speech protections that would allow corporations to utilize unregulated financial contributions to influence government officials and political candidates. Corporations are artificial entities, and not entitled to Constitutional protections as persons. Their profits and interests must not come before the well-being and interests of the societies in which they operate. Laws governing corporations should exist to promote only fair commerce and the interests of society and must not be subject to the influence of corporate money. Rampant corporate power is a primary threat to our environment, shared prosperity, and government of the people.

We call for:

- Amending the Constitution to firmly establish that corporations are not people and that money is not speech;
- Requiring organizations dedicated primarily to drafting and promoting corporate-backed legislation to register as lobbying organizations and denying them tax-exempt status;
- Repealing tax breaks and incentives for companies that do not provide verifiable net benefits to the state;
- Reinstating the windfall profits tax;
- Strengthening and enforcing laws against corporate crime, with penalties to include prison time for executives and revoking corporate charters;
- Strengthening and enforcing whistleblower laws to provide active protection and restitution for any whistleblowers;
- Fully enforcing antitrust laws. Any corporate entity with holdings so extensive that its failure would cause major disruptions of the national economy must be broken into smaller entities to ensure healthy, competitive markets and protect consumers;
- Transparency in corporate accounting;
- Separating investment banking from commercial and retail banking and subjecting both to tighter regulation, transparency, and accountability;
- Tightly regulating or abolishing the derivatives market;
- Strictly limiting shell companies;
- Increasing oversight of companies vital to our economy and environment, such as those in banking and fossil fuel extraction;
- Government at all levels to hold natural resources in trust for citizens. Lease law rates for mining, harvesting, grazing or otherwise using harvesting of public resources for private

- 1 profit must be updated annually and set at fair market value. Corporations must leave
2 the lands, waters, and air in an environmentally sound, sustainable state;
- 3 • Ending all subsidies for fossil fuel companies;
 - 4 • Disallowing corporations, foreign or domestic, via any trade agreement or treaty, to
5 demand compensation of “lost profits” caused by laws and regulations meant to protect
6 peoples’ well-being or to ensure safe, sustainable use of natural resources;
 - 7 • Requiring corporations that adversely impact the sustainability of the natural
8 environment to engage in mitigation while the resource is in use and do remediation on-
9 site as near to the site as a suitable property can be found, so that the value of the area is
10 not lost to the citizens;
 - 11 • Requiring multinational companies to pay their fair share of U.S. taxes and prohibiting
12 use of foreign tax havens, and the forfeiture of corporate status as U.S.-based
13 corporations or their ability to do business in the U.S., or federal business overseas
14 should these tenets be violated;
 - 15 • Increasing exports of manufactured goods and decreasing exports of raw resource
16 material through use of tariffs and taxes;
 - 17 • Repealing subsidies or tax reductions to U.S. based firms that outsource jobs overseas;
 - 18 • International trade based on fair trade that includes living wages, environmental
19 protection and human rights;
 - 20 • Sanctioning multinational corporations, their affiliates, subsidiaries, and/or franchises
21 from operating in violation of international law;
 - 22 • Prohibiting the import or export or sale of products made by exploiting the environment,
23 local communities, and people and all products of forced labor and/or child labor;
 - 24 • Prohibiting United States companies from engaging in or enabling practices abroad that
25 would be prohibited at home.

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27 **We oppose:**

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- 29 • Corporations exerting undue influence on our government through access to regulatory
30 commissions and drafting congressional and state legislation;
- 31 • Foreign ownership and management of our ports, highways, bridges, pipelines, and
32 other infrastructure assets which are crucial to our national safety and security;
- 33 • Patent and copyright laws that grant corporations monopolies over unnecessarily long
34 terms;
- 35 • Corporate mergers that enable price control or other monopolistic limitation of the free
36 market economy;
- 37 • Attempts to weaken and underfund the powers of the Consumer Financial Protection
38 Bureau;

- 1 • Corporations terminating defined benefit retirement plans or using mergers and
- 2 bankruptcy courts to appropriate workers' pensions and substituting 401K plans for
- 3 defined benefit pensions.

1 IV. Culture and Arts

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

4 “Culture” refers to the languages, customs, beliefs, rules, arts, knowledge and collective
5 identities and memories developed by members of social groups that make their social
6 environments meaningful.

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

10 **We call for:**

- 11 • A substantial commitment to public funding for the arts and arts education;
- 12 • Libraries, performing arts centers and museums to be well-funded, accessible, and
13 diverse in their offerings;
- 14 • Easy access and frequent exposure to public art events, performances, and exhibits for all
15 communities in Washington;
- 16 • Respect and appreciation of cultural diversity;
- 17 • Arts and cultural education to be available and accessible to all, and to be a core subject
18 in our K-12 public schools; added as a component of STEM, as an “A,” to make
19 “STEAM;”
- 20 • Public support of small businesses which promote the arts;
- 21 • Our community of diverse cultures to be encouraged, welcomed, and supported,
22 including art galleries/studios, performance venues, cafes, restaurants, bookstores,
23 music stores, and private art and culturally focused schools;
- 24 • Public venues for art and cultural festivals, events, performances, and exhibits to be
25 made readily available;
- 26 • Increased funding of Washington County, State, and National Parks with a commitment
27 to maintaining and improving natural space access for all Washington residents;
- 28 • Maintaining low-cost entrance fees to State and National Parks so that all may enjoy
29 access to public lands;
- 30 • Communications about arts and cultural events, performances, and exhibits to all our
31 communities to be frequent, accessible, and diversified;
- 32 • Communications about available funding and opportunities for artists to be frequent,
33 accessible, and diversified;
- 34 • Existing public art displays and venues to be well maintained and preserved;

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- 1 • Cultural and arts exchanges that represent the State of Washington across the United
- 2 States and abroad;
- 3 • Developing community partnerships to promote and create art and cultural experiences.

1 V. Economic Justice, Jobs and Tax Fairness

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

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

6 **We call for:**

- 7 • Incremental increases in the state and federal minimum wage, with a living wage
8 indexed to inflation as the outcome;
- 9 • Updating the federal poverty level to reflect reality and thereafter adjusting it according
10 to cost of living;
- 11 • Funding and rebuilding our infrastructure as a proven method of job creation, including
12 adoption of the federal Rebuild America Act;
- 13 • A progressive tax system at both the federal and state level, including taxing unearned
14 income at the same rate as earned income;
- 15 • A state income tax offset by cuts in regressive taxes (e.g., sales tax), a state capital gains
16 tax, eliminating the Business and Occupation tax in favor of a flat 1% corporate income
17 tax, and a 0.25% financial transaction tax on Wall Street trading;
- 18 • Economic justice on womxn’s issues such as social security reform; pension reform;
19 living wages; pay equity; job discrimination; child care; paid sick, safe, and family leave;
20 and reproductive rights;
- 21 • Economic justice on parental issues such as pension reform; living wages; job
22 discrimination; child care; and paid sick, safe, and family leave;
- 23 • Increasing the rate of food assistance;
- 24 • A budget that represents tax exemptions as expenditures to be part of the biennial
25 appropriations process;
- 26 • Targeted economic development incentives to businesses that provide verifiable,
27 immediate, and lasting benefits to our communities;
- 28 • Repealing tax breaks and incentives for companies that do not provide verifiable net
29 benefits to the state and requiring them to make restitution; subjecting tax exemptions
30 to renewal every 4 years;
- 31 • Greater transparency on the part of federal financial institutions;
- 32 • Restoration of the Glass Steagall Act;
- 33 • Settling student debt with a program that bases repayment on a percentage of earnings
34 and forgives the balance after 20 years;

- 1 • Reducing or eliminating graduate student debt in exchange for 10 years of critically
2 needed in-state public service in certain professions;
- 3 • Reversing the 2006 federal bankruptcy law to include discharge of mortgages and
4 student debt in bankruptcy court;
- 5 • Opportunities for young people by encouraging the utilization of state approved
6 apprenticeship programs and fully funding AmeriCorps and Job Corps programs;
- 7 • Creating a new civilian conservation corps to address natural resources needs;
- 8 • Until a living wage is achieved, increasing eligibility for the Earned Income Tax Credit to
9 help the working poor;
- 10 • Removing the cap on income subject to Social Security tax;
- 11 • Enhancing Social Security so that no recipient lives in poverty;
- 12 • Taxing carried interest from private equity and hedge funds as ordinary income;
- 13 • A major increase in funding for assistance and construction of affordable and low-income
14 housing in Washington State;
- 15 • Improving and implementing property tax breaks on primary residences of low-income
16 homeowners, small and micro businesses;
- 17 • A fair system of paying for growth, including urban growth, with impact fees;
- 18 • Local, state and federal governments to develop Buy Local, Build Local priority policies
19 that support diverse and resilient local economies;
- 20 • Support for small and micro businesses, including tax credits, low-interest loans, tax
21 abatement development zones for start-ups and non-profit micro-lending;
- 22 • Establishment of a Washington State Investment Trust (i.e. a state bank);
- 23 • Using post offices to provide bank services for low-income people;
- 24 • Re-establishing and maintaining usury laws capping all interest rates at the level allowed
25 to credit unions;
- 26 • Only those multilateral trade agreements that are conditioned on environmental, health
27 and safety standards, human rights and workers' rights, and which support transparent
28 democratic processes.

29 **We oppose:**

- 30 • Excessive corporate profits and executive compensation;
- 31 • Privatization of Social Security, reduction of benefits, or increasing the age of eligibility
32 for benefits;
- 33 • Privatization, downsizing, outsourcing, and offshoring of public services;
- 34 • Excessive fees and excessive interest charged to consumers by short-term lending
35 corporations;
- 36 • The use of credit scores for hiring and insurance rating;
- 37 • Taxing unemployment, worker compensation and Social Security benefits;

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- 1 • Any constitutional amendment that requires an un-democratic two-thirds vote in the
- 2 Legislature to raise revenues;
- 3 • Forced arbitration clauses in all consumer contracts, warranties, guarantees, etc.

1 VI. Education

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

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

12 **We call for:**

- 13 • The Washington State Legislature to fulfill its constitutional duty to “make ample
14 provisions for the education of all children” as reaffirmed by the Washington State
15 Supreme Court in the McCleary decision;
- 16 • Free access and full funding of public education, including all basic, gifted, vocational,
17 technical, alternative, special education, English Language Learners, and other
18 state/federal programs and mandates;
- 19 • Addressing the opportunity gap through school choice such as Tribal Compact Schools
- 20 • Funding for smaller class sizes based on effective class size studies;
- 21 • Full funding of Head Start and Early Childhood Education and Assistance Programs;
- 22 • Schools to be free from weapons, violence, bullying, harassment, retribution (by staff and
23 students), drugs and alcohol;
- 24 • All school personnel to be trained in de-escalation techniques;
- 25 • Full inclusion of all students into the school environment, regardless of age, race, ethnic
26 origin, national origin, language, religion, sex, gender identity and expression, sexual
27 orientation, marital status, parenthood, disability, physical size, economic status, or
28 political affiliation;
- 29 • The freedom for students to use school locker rooms and bathrooms that correspond to
30 their gender identities;
- 31 • School boundaries to be drawn in such a way that racial and economic segregation of
32 students is minimized;
- 33 • Particular regard for the educational and human services needs of the student who is or
34 has been sexually active, or is pregnant;
- 35 • Particular regard for the educational and human services needs of specific populations,
36 including students who are in foster care, homeless, migrants, or undocumented;

- 1 • School academic and behavioral health counselors, librarians, and nurses sufficient to
2 serve the needs of every student;
- 3 • The availability of high quality continuing education and career training, including
4 school-to-work partnerships and apprenticeship programs, in addition to traditional
5 higher education for adult workers;
- 6 • The inclusion of social-emotional learning, music, fine arts, environmental education,
7 foreign language instruction, civics and physical education in the Washington Basic
8 Education Act, beginning in Kindergarten;
- 9 • A curriculum that is rigorous, comprehensive, and historically and scientifically accurate
10 at all levels and that recognizes the cultural perspectives of children from diverse and
11 indigenous communities;
- 12 • Medically accurate and comprehensive sex education in schools, including education on
13 healthy relationships and models of consent;
- 14 • Providing age appropriate instruction on how to prevent, identify, and report suspected
15 child abuse;
- 16 • Instructional freedom that is student-centered within the curriculum;
- 17 • Programs to teach awareness on ways to reduce individual and local environmental
18 impacts;
- 19 • Funding school construction to accommodate increased growth, lower class sizes, full-
20 day kindergarten and maintenance including replacement of all portables for the health
21 and safety of our children;
- 22 • Full funding for school transportation;
- 23 • Purchase of equipment and technology in compliance with the Americans With
24 Disabilities Act;
- 25 • Free education to extend through public college or university and vocational/technical
26 schools;
- 27 • All high school graduates in the United States to have access to public higher education
28 regardless of means;
- 29 • Congress to reform policies that deny federal tuition aid to college students convicted of
30 drug possession;
- 31 • Adopting a non-profit GED as an alternative to the for-profit Pearson GED;
- 32 • Legislation that significantly lowers the interest rate on student loans and finds ways to
33 relieve the financial stress of college students and retroactively for graduate students
34 burdened with huge student debt;
- 35 • Simple majority elections for school bonds and protection of the simple majority for
36 school levies;
- 37 • Encouraging high school community-based service;
- 38 • Encouraging that high schools offer courses in personal finance and civics;

- 1 • Expanding and supporting STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and
2 Mathematics) education through diverse learning opportunities in grades K-12 as a
3 matter of national security and global economic competitiveness;
- 4 • Expanding vocational education and apprenticeship programs in middle school, high
5 school and beyond;
- 6 • Local and state control of policies concerning public education while complying with
7 federal oversight and receiving federal funding to preserve quality, fairness and civil
8 rights for all;
- 9 • Public education employees’ rights to organize, engage in collective bargaining, and
10 strike without fear of reprisal or replacement;
- 11 • Education funding equity regardless of district tax base, with a new funding formula for
12 public schools and capital projects;
- 13 • Salary and benefits for adjunct and part-time college instructors to be based on
14 compensation levels for full-time professional staff, according to percentage of full-time
15 equivalency;
- 16 • Certificated and classified employees’ compensation equal to those of other professionals
17 of similar experience and education to attract/retain quality public-school employees;
- 18 • Partial student loan forgiveness and loan consolidation at the federal level;
- 19 • Congress to reform policies that deny federal tuition aid to college students convicted of
20 drug possession;
- 21 • Work/study programs and programs offering higher education in exchange for public
22 service to be expanded, and Pell grants to be increased and adjusted for inflation until
23 such time as a fully tuition-free public college system is established;
- 24 • Full funding and implementation of the Washington State Board of Health’s revised rules
25 for health and safety of school environments;
- 26 • School food programs that ensure school breakfasts and lunches meet or exceed state
27 nutritional standards and support healthy habits and classroom learning so that students
28 receive an equal opportunity to succeed;
- 29 • High-quality before- and after-school programs, and learning opportunities to address
30 summer learning loss;
- 31 • School discipline that is results-oriented;
- 32 • Before and after school care and preschool/early childhood education programs to
33 ensure all students receive an equal opportunity to succeed;
- 34 • Support and mandated use of open educational resources (textbooks) in higher
35 education;
- 36 • Full funding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act;
- 37 • Math instruction that includes arithmetic and geometric fluency, proof techniques and
38 logic, and elementary statistics, and how to apply those tools to real-world scenarios to
39 promote general numeracy;

- 1 • Critical thinking instruction to promote recognition of cognitive biases and logical
- 2 fallacies;
- 3 • Uncoupling school bonds from the state non-education capital budget and passing them
- 4 with a simple majority;
- 5 • Gun-free zones in all schools;
- 6 • Repeal of the Washington State charter school law and increased funding for innovative
- 7 public education such as magnet schools.

8 **We oppose:**

- 9 • Charter schools, and if we must have them, we oppose:
 - 10 a. Any attempt to "fix" the charter school initiative;
 - 11 b. Lack of public oversight and transparency of tax money expenditures including
 - 12 their private for-profit contractors;
 - 13 c. Lack of labor protection for teachers and staff, who are not unionized or certified;
 - 14 d. The "trigger" school mechanism in the charter law that allows the takeover of any
 - 15 school building upon the presentation of a petition by the majority of teachers or
 - 16 parents;
 - 17 e. Excessive pay for charter school administrators in relation to public school
 - 18 administrators;
- 19 • School vouchers;
- 20 • The commercialization of school environments including food sales;
- 21 • Linking military recruitment to educational funding;
- 22 • Organized prayer in public schools;
- 23 • National standardized performance testing;
- 24 • Basing teacher pay in whole or in part on student test scores;
- 25 • All so-called "reforms" that are not based upon sound and objective information; that are
- 26 disguised attempts to blame teachers for the problems in public education to weaken
- 27 teacher unions; or to privatize our public education system for profit;
- 28 • The escalation of tuition at institutions of higher education;
- 29 • The use of textbooks in public education that whitewash history, omit/deny scientifically
- 30 verifiable facts of widely accepted theories, and propose religiously based answers to
- 31 scientific questions;
- 32 • The reduction or elimination of recess as a regular part of elementary school education;
- 33 • Suppression of unpopular research and research results, and curtailment of academic
- 34 freedom;
- 35 • The gathering of personal student information for commercial gain;
- 36 • Predatory student loans that cannot be refinanced or discharged in bankruptcy.

VII. Environment, Energy, 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 life, including future generations, have rights to clean air, water, and a healthy natural environment. We must remain committed to national energy independence through developing a distributed energy smart grid that integrates a wide range of energy sources that balance economic needs with a safe and healthy environment for public health and climate considerations.

We believe:

- Both our economic stability and the health of our environment depend on sound policy decisions incorporating the best scientific evidence;
- Sustainable energy production and strong environmental protections strengthen our economy and our country;
- Public discussion and education should occur at all levels of community and government about how and why to conserve resources and energy;
- State and National policies must promote biodiversity, ecosystem and watershed protection, and restoration of wild salmon and endangered species;
- Managing public lands as a public trust benefits us all;
- Washington State should be among the leaders of national and international efforts to reduce greenhouse gases and mitigate climate change;
- The commitment to protect our planet’s climate health must be seen as mutually dependent and interwoven with the struggles for racial and economic justice;

We call for:

- Achieving a net-zero carbon emission economy by 2050;
- Innovative and sustainable solutions to environmental challenges and our climate crisis;
- Full funding for all the planning steps necessary to support state and local environmental protection mandates, including assessment, permitting, mitigation follow-up, and data collection, tracking, and analysis needed for due diligence in evaluating impacts to natural systems;
- Requiring that environmental impact assessments consider the full scope of every proposal, to avoid the segmentation of projects as a tactic for reducing identified impacts;
- Requiring developers to pay impact fees to mitigate increased needs for schools, safe pedestrian infrastructure, roads, parks, sewers, and other effects of development;

- 1 • Research and program funding to develop and implement safe, clean alternative energy
2 solutions and to encourage resource conservation;
- 3 • Expanded programs and incentives for consumers and businesses to encourage energy
4 conservation and the use of renewable, environmentally responsible energy and of
5 efficient energy-distribution technologies;
- 6 • Modernizing the grid for distributed two-way energy flows and incorporating new,
7 connected technologies, while maintaining minimal rate impacts;
- 8 • The Tri-Party Agreement and other efforts of Washington State to ensure that the
9 Hanford Reservation clean-up is promptly completed, and that Columbia River water
10 quality and local communities are protected from the Hanford Reservation’s
11 contamination;
- 12 • Reinstating the Superfund Tax requiring polluters to pay cleanup costs;
- 13 • Conserving resources and promoting sustainability through recycling and waste
14 reduction efforts;
- 15 • Correcting the disproportionate effects of environmental degradation on low-income and
16 minority communities;
- 17 • Protecting our critical environmental areas including wilderness areas, old growth
18 forests, wildlife habitat areas and corridors, wetlands, lakes, rivers, streams, riparian
19 areas, the Columbia River, Puget Sound, coastlines, oceans, and other bodies of water
20 through vigilant monitoring and planned growth management;
- 21 • Protecting environmentally sensitive areas by prohibiting oil, gas, and mineral
22 exploration, extraction, and transportation in such areas;
- 23 • Protecting environmentally sensitive areas by prohibiting waste disposal, storage or
24 treatment in such areas;
- 25 • Holding manufacturers responsible for the costs of collection, cleanup and disposition of
26 their products and packaging at the end of their useful lives, such as batteries and
27 prescription medications;
- 28 • Increased support for development of renewable and sustainable energy programs to
29 supply electricity to the power grid;
- 30 • Enforcing the Model Light Ordinance to protect nocturnal animal and bird species from
31 excessive artificial light pollution;
- 32 • Establishing and implementing a price on carbon-based pollution, to internalize the costs
33 of increased air pollution and climate change from fossil fuels;
- 34 • A long-term national energy policy with realistic and comprehensive planning;
- 35 • Enacting new laws and enforcing current regulations to eliminate pollution of
36 Washington waters at the source;
- 37 • Enhancing protection of riverine and marine ecosystems from tanker and cargo-vessel
38 collisions, unlawful discharges and spills of petroleum-based products, and bilge water
39 pumping operations containing invasive aquatic species;

- 1 • Implementing the “just transition” framework to ensure ongoing employment for
- 2 workers as the world shifts from fossil fuels to non-carbon-based economies;
- 3 • Expanded restoration efforts to improve fisheries including:
- 4 ○ Revision of storm water culverts under roads and railroads to better facilitate fish
- 5 passage;
- 6 ○ Habitat restoration;
- 7 ○ Shading of rivers; and
- 8 ○ Pollution-reduction goals, with detection of pollution sources and enforcement of
- 9 violations.

10 **We oppose:**

- 11 • Production of fossil fuels and natural minerals through destructive techniques such as,
- 12 but not limited to, hydraulic fracturing and mountaintop removal, and offshore drilling;
- 13 • Any privatization of publicly owned utilities;
- 14 • Weakening or elimination of our environmental laws such as the Clean Water Act and
- 15 the Clean Air Act and weakening or elimination of the Environmental Protection Agency.

VIII. Foreign Policy

The United States should lead by example and work within the world community in a spirit of peace, cooperation and commitment to support human welfare, freedom, and democracy. Diplomacy and nonviolent conflict resolution must be the primary organizing principles of our foreign policy.

We believe:

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

We call for:

- Full support and funding of our State Department as the primary foreign policy arm of the U.S. government;
- Honoring and upholding the rights, welfare, and healthy environment of all indigenous peoples;
- Freezing the assets of leaders of repressive regimes and banning military exports to such countries;
- Participation in and funding of multilateral peacekeeping missions;
- Revision of the War Powers Act to ensure that Congress can end a war or other military action;
- Cooperative and fully funded participation in international organizations including the United Nations and international courts of justice, provided that the national security interests of the United States are protected;
- Honoring ratification of international treaties that protect civilian populations and human rights, and that address climate change;
- Preventing genocide, and protecting refugees;
- An effective, comprehensive plan to ensure our security while protecting our constitutional rights and the human rights of all;

- 1 • Working with other nations to pursue law enforcement action against terrorist networks,
2 rather than by acting through military intervention;
- 3 • Effective foreign aid to reduce poverty and improve access to the necessities of life;
- 4 • Promoting programs that support all voluntary forms of evidence-based, safe, and
5 effective family planning worldwide;
- 6 • Fair trade among nations based on sound environmental principles, sustainable
7 agriculture and manufacturing, recognition of property rights, and democratic and
8 economic rights of consumers and the workforce;
- 9 • Renegotiating international trade agreements to deal adequately and transparently with
10 human rights, the rights of indigenous peoples, labor rights, and environmental rights
11 and laws to make them truly fair trade agreements;
- 12 • Rebuilding the civilian infrastructure and economy in Iraq and Afghanistan, using
13 international agencies and local labor;
- 14 • Detailed and public accounting of all reconstruction funds spent in “Operation Iraqi
15 Freedom” and “Operation Enduring Freedom”;
- 16 • Changing our diplomatic engagements in South Asia, including those with Afghanistan
17 and Pakistan, to work toward peaceful resolution of ongoing conflicts;
- 18 • Serious, full, constructive, and persistent United States engagement to promote
19 negotiations and other actions that will lead to a peaceful, sustainable resolution of the
20 Israeli–Palestinian conflict, based on mutual recognition and ensuring security, economic
21 growth, and quality of life for the peoples of the sovereign state of Palestine and the
22 sovereign state of Israel;
- 23 • Political and economic self-determination for the Cuban people and normalization of our
24 relations with Cuba, including an end to the United States-imposed embargo and travel
25 ban;
- 26 • Ending the use of United States tax money to fund, train or sponsor military or police
27 forces that suppress human and civil rights in foreign countries;
- 28 • Reduction of nuclear arsenals, strengthening of international control of fissile material
29 including “depleted” uranium (dU), and nonproliferation of nuclear weapons by limiting
30 the use of fissile material to peaceful purposes;
- 31 • Using foreign aid to offset or forgive onerous debt of countries forced to choose between
32 debt repayment and essential services;
- 33 • A foreign policy that encourages struggling economies worldwide to engage in economic
34 growth policies, such as infrastructure investment, without compelling privatization of
35 government services or natural resources as a way to refinance their nations’ debts;
- 36 • Restoration of our historic full adherence to the Geneva and Vienna Conventions;
- 37 • Allowing developing nations more influence in the running of the International
38 Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank;

- 1 • International agreements that bring opportunity and employment for Washington
2 workers and businesses;
- 3 • Honoring the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, ratifying the United Nations
4 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and
5 signing the United Nations agreement creating the International Criminal Courts;
- 6 • The United States and United Nations to ban the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in
7 weapons of war whereupon AI, without the intervention of a human, attacks persons,
8 buildings, or population centers.

9 **We oppose:**

- 10 • Preemptive war;
- 11 • Exportation of offensive weapons systems, such as “depleted” uranium (dU), chemical,
12 nuclear, or biological weapons, that contribute to destabilization in international relations
13 and the international arms race;
- 14 • Extraordinary rendition, the abduction of persons of any nationality, their detention in
15 secret prisons, and torture;
- 16 • Rape as a tool of war, and the lack of action to stop such rapes from occurring;
- 17 • Trade agreements negotiated in secret without public-interest representation;
- 18 • Foreign policies that put the interests of corporations above the rights, laws, and interests
19 of governments or workers;
- 20 • Forced austerity measures, including privatization of government services, as a condition
21 of U.S. aid and U.S. support for loans through the International Monetary Fund (IMF)
22 and the World Bank;
- 23 • The Washington [DC] Consensus existing through the neo-liberal agenda of outsourcing,
24 deregulation, privatization, union-busting, and corporate globalization, embodied, for
25 example, in the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the World Trade
26 Organization;
- 27 • Any current or future Israeli settlements in the West Bank;
- 28 • The United States involvement in violent extremism, radicalization, and regime change;
- 29 • The sale or provision of weapons to countries that violate human rights.

IX. 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 representative of and accountable to society.

We Call for:

Informed Citizenry and Transparency

- An informed citizenry and civil discourse are necessary to a functioning democracy;
- We support equitable access to the political process for all Americans;
- Taxpayer-funded scientific research that becomes part of the public domain and informs policy and regulatory decisions affecting our health, safety, and environment;
- Restoration and strict enforcement of the Freedom of Information Act and Open Meetings Act to ensure open and honest government;
- Enforcement of sunshine laws and transparency in sessions that discuss and make public policy;
- Open Data initiatives to make federal, state, and local government more transparent and accountable to the people of Washington and the people of the United States including full access to personnel files for current and former members and employees of the legislature except where such information is otherwise protected by law such as HIPAA or the Privacy Act;
- Requiring paid voter signature gatherers for ballot initiatives to prominently display a placard stating who they work for and who is paying them;

Voting and Non-Presidential Elections

- Government shall make voting as easy as possible by removing all obstacles to voting and increasing access to voting for marginalized groups;
- All U.S. citizens should be registered to vote at their 18th birthday;
- Any attempts to interfere with voting, recording, storing, and tallying votes shall be punishable by law;
- Making voting easier for our military and other citizens living overseas;
- Equitable access to the voting process should be available to all Americans whatever their health, place of residence, economic status, race, religion, criminal status, Legal Financial Obligation repayment status or gender;
- Making voter suppression illegal;
- Legislation to protect the integrity and transparency of federal elections by establishing disclosure requirements for all contributions;

- 1 • Preserving the integrity of electoral processes;
- 2 • All votes should be cast on carefully monitored, secured human-readable paper ballots,
- 3 and the machines used to produce, tabulate, store, and manage election data must use
- 4 open-source software;
- 5 • Mandatory auditing of the election process and results shall be conducted as
- 6 recommended by the American Statistical Association, and be required for all
- 7 jurisdictions, and open to the public to witness;
- 8 • Campaign and debate processes that include third-party and so-called second-tier
- 9 candidates;
- 10 • Equal access to public airwaves for all legally filed candidates in all localities and in all
- 11 national, state, and local elections;
- 12 • Electoral processes intended to increase voter participation and confidence in our
- 13 electoral system, including such significant changes as mail-in voting with pre-paid
- 14 postage with optional day of voting in a public polling place, multi-member districts
- 15 with proportional representation, and instant runoff voting (ranked choice voting);
- 16 • Public financing of elections to promote a more even playing field where all Americans
- 17 can participate, thus empowering the people in the political process;
- 18 • Redistricting Washington State by a citizen-driven process to create more politically and
- 19 demographically balanced districts;
- 20 • Limits on private and corporate funding of campaigns;
- 21 • Abolition of the interstate cross-check program;
- 22 • When discrepancy is detected by audit and not resolved by recounts a new election shall
- 23 be conducted;
- 24

25 Presidential Elections

- 26 • A Constitutional amendment providing for direct election of the United States President
- 27 and Vice President;
- 28 • Ending the practice of unpledged delegates in the presidential primary process;
- 29 • Requiring presidential candidates to disclose their tax returns and all vested interests
- 30 prior to getting their names on Washington’s ballot;
- 31

32 Ethics

- 33 • Elected officials are employees of the people and are responsible to society as a whole;
- 34 • Government is not a business. Government actions should support the common good,
- 35 and taxes should be levied fairly and spent responsibly;
- 36 • Government should be protected from undue influence by corporate, foreign and other
- 37 special interests;
- 38 • Government officials must be held to the highest standards of ethical conduct and that
- 39 there be consequences for misconduct;

- 1 • Restrictions on former state and federal elected officials from paid lobbying for at least
- 2 five years after leaving office;
- 3 • Prosecution of government employees (elected or non-elected) who violate laws under
- 4 the guise of doing their job (color of law) including judges;

5

6 Money

- 7 • Full and timely public disclosure of sources of all campaign funds including contribution
- 8 limits, spending limits, and disclosure of campaign contributions;
- 9 • State funding of inclusive public debates for statewide offices and ballot measures;
- 10 • Minimizing the influence of special interests and lobbyists on our political processes by
- 11 instituting campaign finance reform;
- 12 • All regulatory agencies to be adequately funded, staffed and fully accountable;
- 13 • Adequate and equitable funding of public service options for all in need of work or work
- 14 experience, including AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, Job Corps, and other avenues of service;
- 15 • Enactment of revenue measures by simple-majority votes in the Washington State
- 16 Legislature, as specified in the State Constitution;
- 17 • Accounting all tax exemptions as expenditures in the state budget and automatically sun-
- 18 setting non-performing state tax exemptions after five years;
- 19 • Inclusion of funding of all military actions in open Congressional budgets;
- 20 • Establishment of a state bank to handle and profit from state revenues;
- 21 • Increased funding for broadcast of the legislature, not allowing lobbyists to attend
- 22 meetings where the public is not included;
- 23 • Repeal of American Legislative Exchange Council’s nonprofit status;
- 24 • Disclose top 5 donors to PACs or Committees;
- 25 • A publicly searchable database of all registered lobbyists, lobbying expenditures, and
- 26 financial and in-kind contributions to candidates and ballot measures at the state and
- 27 federal level;

28

29 Nonviolent Conflict Resolution

- 30 • Engaging with the political process through nonviolent action is the preferred way to
- 31 advocate for political change;
- 32 • Establishing a cabinet-level Department of Peace and Nonviolent Conflict Resolution
- 33 whose Secretary will advise the President on both domestic and international issues and
- 34 fund programs proven to prevent violence;
- 35 • In the introduction of gender-blind universal service for all U.S. citizens, with allowance
- 36 for alternatives to military service to benefit the nation and our citizenry;

37 Laws

- 1 • A review of all Washington laws on “eminent domain” to ensure that no private
2 property may be taken for private purposes and that all seizures are compensated in a
3 fair and equitable manner;
- 4 • Full Congressional representation for residents of the District of Columbia and statehood
5 for any U.S. Territory that votes for it;
- 6 • Public utilities for potable water, sewage disposal, drainage management, roads, energy,
7 and telecommunications that are, to the maximum extent feasible, publicly owned and
8 operated;
- 9 • Federal legislators shall be given enough time to read bills before they go to the floor;

10

11 Census

- 12 • Counting felons, for census purposes, as residents of their last home address, rather than
13 their place of imprisonment;
- 14 • Adequately fund every census moving forward;
- 15 • Removal of citizenship question on the US Census;
- 16 • A census counts people, the basis of apportionment shall be to the person;
- 17 • Adequately counting Queer, LGBTQ+ and those who otherwise identify, by households
18 and individuals in the US Census.

X. 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 and regardless of ability to pay.

To protect individuals, as well as communities, Washington State should provide a distributed comprehensive continuum of public behavioral and mental health care.

We call for:

- An affordable universal single-payer system to provide the most equitable and effective health care, serving both individual and public health needs;
- Our state to establish a single payer system for Washington residents until such time as a single-payer system is enacted nationally;
- Support for transition assistance for any employee who loses their job as the result of the establishment of single-payer system;
- Sustained Washington State non-Medicaid funding to protect the vulnerable populations not covered by Federal Medicaid;
- Adequate funding for rural hospitals and community health centers, and special rules that make it possible for them to operate in rural areas;
- Comprehensive health care coverage – including outpatient and inpatient services; acute and long-term care; home care, palliative care, end-of-life counseling, and hospice; behavioral and mental health care and substance-use programs; dental, vision and hearing services; preventive services; family planning with contraception and access to safe abortions; prescription drugs, medical supplies, durable medical equipment and medical technology; and rehabilitation;
- Passage of a comprehensive "Patients' Bill of Rights" Law affirming that medical decisions should be patient-centered and made primarily among patients, their families, and providers, and affirming freedom of choice in healthcare, including the right to refuse medical care and the right to select a personal provider and a "medical home" team that provides coordinated care with continuity;
- The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services to be empowered to negotiate prices for medical devices and drugs;
- Health insurance programs, both private and public, to cover all forms of reproductive services and methods that are legal in Washington State, in accord with the principles of reproductive parity;
- Transparency in pricing of health care services and prescription drugs;

- 1 • Prompt FDA approval of new treatments based on solid data from reputable clinical
- 2 trials that demonstrate both safety and effectiveness;
- 3 • A strong public health system that promotes conditions leading to better health for the
- 4 entire population, based on sound scientific principles and following recommendations
- 5 made by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC);
- 6 • The CDC and National Institutes of Health (NIH) to operate autonomously within their
- 7 mandate, without politically motivated limitations such as the ban on gun-violence
- 8 research;
- 9 • Government education grants and student-debt forgiveness for primary care providers,
- 10 in exchange for service to underserved populations;
- 11 • Expanded funding of basic science and clinical research under the NIH, based on
- 12 scientific merit, not a political agenda;
- 13 • Support of a patient’s right to decision-making and other provisions of the Death with
- 14 Dignity Act;
- 15 • Continued funding for HIV/ AIDS-related education and care;
- 16 • Early intervention and preventive services for behavioral and mental health, continuing
- 17 through medically appropriate crisis care and community reintegration services;
- 18 • Mental health care reform that improves the accessibility and availability of care for all
- 19 and expands public awareness education and advocacy;
- 20 • Full coverage of transgender medical costs, including gender confirmation surgery and
- 21 all other treatments necessary for a transgender person to fully transition;
- 22 • Full implementation of behavioral and mental health parity with complete phase-out of
- 23 existing exemptions and implementation of regulatory standards and enforcement of
- 24 mental health parity laws;
- 25 • Full funding and implementation of the Washington State Board of Health’s rules for
- 26 health and safety of school environments [WAC 246-366];
- 27 • Recognition that gun violence is a public health crisis causing injury and death.
- 28 • Improving Medicaid benefits to adequately cover home- and community-based care, and
- 29 facility care services;
- 30 • Improved access to medical marijuana;
- 31 • Research into cannabis-based pharmaceuticals.

32

33 **We oppose:**

- 34 • Privatizing or rationing Medicare, or raising the age of Medicare eligibility;
- 35 • For-profit medical insurance;
- 36 • Direct-to-consumer advertising of prescription drugs and devices;
- 37 • Denial of legal medical treatment or prescription purchase based on the personal
- 38 religious beliefs of medical and/or pharmaceutical personnel;

- 1 • “Crisis Pregnancy Centers” and the provision of false medical information to prevent
2 abortions;
- 3 • Mergers with religious health care institutions that result in directives restricting their
4 medical staff from providing the full range of health care options, including:
 - 5 ○ Abortions;
 - 6 ○ Contraceptive sterilizations;
 - 7 ○ In vitro fertilization;
 - 8 ○ Prescribing or dispensing contraceptives and contraceptive devices such as IUDs
9 and diaphragms, emergency contraception, and condoms;
 - 10 ○ End-of-life decision making.

XI. Housing Justice

We believe that safe, quality, affordable housing is a basic human right, and the foundation for success in life, education and employment. We believe tenants and homeowners have a universal right to counsel to address threats to their housing.

We Call For:

- All levels of government to use creative solutions and progressive revenue sources to ensure all people have permanent, stable, secure, safe and livable housing;
- Protections, and their enforcement, against discrimination in housing on the basis of race, country of origin, religious or non-religious status, gender or gender identity, sexual orientation, veteran status, source of income, age, political beliefs, parental, or relationship status;
- A major increase in funding for assistance and construction of affordable and low-income housing in Washington State;
- Improving and implementing property tax breaks on primary residences of low-income homeowners, small and micro businesses;
- Repeal of Washington State’s prohibition on rent control;
- Reducing the maximum allowable interest and penalties assessed for delinquent real estate taxes on a homeowner’s primary residence;
- Change to zoning laws to incorporate mother-in-law, over-garage apartments, tiny houses, and other low-cost housing in low-density residential neighborhoods;
- Safe, sanitary, places for homeless people to live in cars, tents, tiny houses, and trailers.
- Development of public properties under public administration to create long term, low-income, housing;
- Creative options to assist homeowners at risk of foreclosure;
- Transitional housing for homeless residents who need services to prepare for a stable lifestyle in-line with housing-first principles.

We oppose:

- Policies and practices that dehumanize and criminalize neighbors experiencing homelessness, including sweeps, hostile urban architecture, and anti-nuisance ordinances;
- Removal of surplus Public Property into private ownership as an incentive to provide affordable housing;
- Predatory lending, discounting foreclosures, and practices which take advantage of victims of natural disasters.

1 XII. Human Rights and Civil Rights

2 The inherent dignity and equal and inalienable rights of all human beings are foundations of
3 freedom, justice and peace. Our democracy rests on the rights and responsibilities set forth in
4 the United States Constitution, the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the
5 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, and our national and state
6 constitutions. Persisting systemic and structural racism and misogyny in our Party, institutions,
7 and culture must be actively combated so all people's rights may be fully realized. Democrats
8 remain at the forefront of the struggle to extend civil, political, economic, religious, and all legal
9 and inherent rights to all persons.

10 **We believe:**

- 11 • Our government derives its legitimacy solely from the consent of the People;
- 12 • As Democrats, we are, and will remain, at the forefront of the struggle to extend and
13 ensure social, political, economic, and legal rights to all persons;
- 14 • It is our responsibility to protect the rights and welfare of all people within our borders.
- 15 • In a transparent, impartial application and enforcement of law;
- 16 • Black lives matter;
- 17 • We must identify, challenge, and eradicate the underlying conditions that give rise to the
18 glaring inequalities around us;
- 19 • Free and open voting is foundational to democracy;
- 20 • In the consistent application of constitutional checks and balances and oversight among
21 the branches of our government;
- 22 • Privacy is fundamental; our private lives and personal information must be protected
23 from intrusion by government or others;
- 24 • Human rights apply to all humans regardless of immigration status and include access to
25 safe food, air, water, and shelter, as well as freedom of speech, personal safety, health
26 care, education, employment, legal aid, and due process;
- 27 • Discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, military service,
28 insurance, licensing or education based on age, race, ethnic origin, national origin,
29 language, religion, sex, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, marital status,
30 parenthood, disability, physical size, economic status, or political affiliation is wrong;
- 31 • Each person has the right to sovereignty over their own body;
- 32 • The right to marry, as a legal union of consenting adults, without regard to sexual
33 orientation or gender-identity, should be preserved;
- 34 • The right of working people to unionize is a fundamental civil right;
- 35 • The right of an individual to practice their religion does not extend to the denial of the
36 constitutional rights of others;

- 1 • In the separation of church and state, and that no entity has the right to impose its
- 2 religious doctrine on others;
- 3 • Those who benefit from unearned privilege must actively listen to marginalized
- 4 communities and step back to provide space for members of such communities to be
- 5 heard by society at large.

6 **We call for:**

- 7 • Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment;
- 8 • Ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against
- 9 Women;
- 10 • The right to be free of government, corporate, or religious interference in their
- 11 reproductive decisions, including contraception and abortion, and to have safe, legal,
- 12 protected, affordable and accessible health care that enables them to make informed
- 13 choices;
- 14 • Honoring the rich diversity of society and efforts to reflect that diversity in our Party,
- 15 including special consideration to be paid to the rights of currently and historically
- 16 marginalized communities, including individuals with disabilities, immigrants, peoples
- 17 of color, indigenous people, the very poor, and religious minorities and atheists; those
- 18 who face discrimination to be afforded the legal means and economic opportunities to
- 19 overcome such injustice;
- 20 • Policies that will strengthen our country by affirming the value of all individuals, and by
- 21 eliminating the systemic conditions that perpetuate inequality, oppression, and lack of
- 22 equal access to opportunities;
- 23 • Respecting the rights of all adults, including seniors and persons with disabilities, to
- 24 direct their own lives in housing, education, medical, financial, and all other life choices
- 25 to the extent of their abilities;
- 26 • Enforcing and monitoring the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Students with
- 27 Disabilities Act, and the Rehabilitation Act;
- 28 • Equal pay for equal work;
- 29 • The end of human trafficking for the sex trade and all other forms of involuntary
- 30 servitude;
- 31 • Legislation that leads to ending child or slave labor worldwide;
- 32 • Strong legislation, treatment programs and education designed to reduce harassment,
- 33 intimidation, domestic or sexual violence, gun violence, and bullying;
- 34 • A commitment to Free Speech which carries an obligation to speak out in defense of
- 35 values of democracy and inclusivity against the evil forces of racism and other hate
- 36 speech;

- 1 • Acknowledging the human rights of all American Indian and Alaska Native women by
2 supporting the goal of identifying and compiling a list of American Indian and Alaska
3 Native women who are missing and/or murdered.

4 **We oppose:**

- 5 • The unconstitutional surveillance of U.S. citizens by the NSA and other U.S. intelligence
6 agencies;
- 7 • Organized prayer in taxpayer-funded institutions and the use of government funds for
8 religious purposes;
- 9 • Discrimination against LGBTQ+ people on parenting rights;
- 10 • All modes and methods of denying in practice a person’s right to reproductive choice
11 over their own body, including:
- 12 ○ Defunding Planned Parenthood;
- 13 ○ Requiring complete hospital surgical facilities for abortion;
- 14 ○ The legal doctrine of “fetal personhood;”
- 15 ○ Hyde Amendment restrictions on federal funding;
- 16 ○ Construing religious freedom of a church-owned hospital to deny access to an
17 abortion; or personal choice to have sterilization;
- 18 • Refusing access to gender-affirming health care, services and surgery;
- 19 • “Conversion therapy,” which seeks to change sexual orientation;
- 20 • Barring access to public restrooms which correspond with an individual's gender
21 identity.

XIII. Human Services

1

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

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

6 **We call for:**

- 7 • Consistent funding of social services programs that include: child care; health education
8 and training; nutrition; medical, behavioral and rehabilitative care; protection and
9 oversight, in order to support: children; parents; people with mental and physical
10 disabilities; the foster care system; the elderly; immigrants and refugees; crisis and
11 emergency victims; those addicted to substances, current and released prisoners, and the
12 re-integration of those groups into society;
- 13 • A network of social services that cannot be conditional on faith-based requirements;
- 14 • A network of social services that is integrated, culturally competent, linguistically
15 accessible, and based on the needs of the individual, rather than the requirements of the
16 service provider;
- 17 • Congress to provide adequate assistance, including but not limited to the Supplemental
18 Nutrition Assistance Program, CHIP, earned income tax credit, child tax credit, housing
19 and child care – so children of low-income families can perform at grade level.
- 20 • Educational grants for human services providers.

21

XIV. 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.

We believe:

- All people, regardless of their country of origin or their immigration status, deserve to be treated fairly, respectfully, and with dignity, and that all people have a right to equal treatment under the law;
- All children regardless of immigration status are entitled to education to provide them the knowledge and skills to be productive members of society;
- In access to health care and human services without regard to immigration status; withholding those services is discriminatory and inhumane;
- Immigration is not a matter of homeland security;
- All detainees should have the right of habeas corpus, to humane treatment, safe facilities, adequate medical care, nutrition, clothing, shelter, freedom of religious practices, family unity, legal defense, minimum wage for their work, and access to basic education services, interpretive services, and an accounting of their location.

We call for:

- Urgent comprehensive reform of United States immigration policy;
- Recognizing the basic human rights of immigrants and protecting them with transparent due process in all proceedings and a clear and equitable pathway to documented status and citizenship if desired;
- Increasing family unification, including families of domestic partners and bi-national couples, by granting legal status with the same standards as spouses of citizens;
- Allowing undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children who have attained the age of majority to apply for U.S. citizenship without first being required to return to their country of origin;
- A more comprehensive “Dream Act” for young adults to enter a path of achievement that can lead to United States citizenship;
- Extending temporary residency to children of undocumented immigrants to allow them to pursue higher education or national service and to be given an opportunity to earn permanent residency;
- Enforcement of the laws which penalize employers who knowingly employ undocumented immigrants;

- 1 • Provide legal access for employers to an immigrant workforce, such as a guest worker
2 program;
- 3 • Policies that fully integrate and support immigrants as equal members of our
4 communities, including programs offering instruction in English, interpretative and
5 translation services of governmental documents and services, and preparation for
6 citizenship;
- 7 • Policies that encourage foreign students to remain in the United States and give them
8 opportunity to earn permanent residency;
- 9 • Increase the number of qualified immigration judges to clear the immigration backlog
10 and avoid lengthy detentions for adults and children;
- 11 • An end to deportation or detention of family members of natural-born U.S. citizens;
- 12 • An end to deportation or detention without due process of law;
- 13 • Streamlining and expediting procedures for granting asylum to persons fleeing from
14 areas of war, genocide, and political oppression, drug and human trafficking, subject to
15 appropriate security concerns;
- 16 • Provisions to prevent discrimination in wages and working conditions for immigrant
17 workers, including access to safe and adequate housing, medical care and educational
18 opportunities;
- 19 • Using diplomacy and sustainable development to improve the social, economic and
20 environmental conditions that contribute to undocumented immigration into the United
21 States;
- 22 • Qualified foster care services for undocumented, unaccompanied minors.

23

24 **We oppose:**

25

- 26 • Separating families of undocumented immigrants and people seeking asylum;
- 27 • The use of the term “illegal” to refer to any human being;
- 28 • State or local agencies involvement in the enforcement of federal immigration laws,
29 including providing information, access, and/or assistance to ICE;
- 30 • Border Patrol checkpoints away from the border and the engagement of Border Patrol
31 agents in ordinary law enforcement activities, including providing routine translation
32 services for other agencies;
- 33 • The use of for-profit prisons or detention centers by Immigration, Customs and
34 Enforcements (ICE) used for the detention of immigrants;
- 35 • Forced labor of detainees;
- 36 • Demands for immediate presentation of documents regarding one’s status in the United
37 States;
- 38 • Efforts to deputize, commission, finance, or otherwise encourage vigilante border militia
39 groups in the United States;

- 1 • Automatic detention and/or deportation of asylum-seekers;
- 2 • Legislative attempts to establish English as the sole official language of the United States;
- 3 • Unjust and arbitrary quotas, limits, and other immigration rules that have the primary
- 4 purpose of preventing new immigration;
- 5 • The use of work visas, such as H(1)(b) and H(2)(a) visas, as a substitute for hiring U.S.
- 6 residents;
- 7 • Policies that exclude or demean immigrants based on religion or country of origin;
- 8 • Local jurisdiction contracts with ICE for services which help arrest, detain, or deport
- 9 immigrants;
- 10 • Judging the merits of asylum seekers based on U.S. geopolitical and/or economic
- 11 interests.

XV. Labor

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

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

11 12 **We believe:**

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

32 33 **We call for:**

- 34
35 • Prevailing wage laws for work under government contracts and/or for government
36 purposes;
- 37 • “Best Value Contractor” policies and “Fair Contracting” with “Responsible and
38 Responsive” bidder language in all public work jobs that include contractor

- 1 responsibilities for prevailing wages, health insurance, retirement and training and to
2 include a performance audit;
- 3 • Area standards for wages and benefits;
 - 4 • State approved apprentice utilization, and a percentage local hiring clause where
5 qualified workers are available on government agencies funded, financed, or involved in
6 projects;
 - 7 • Unemployment insurance that is supported and extended when economic conditions
8 warrant;
 - 9 • Workers compensation managed and monitored by the state;
 - 10 • Unemployment and retraining benefits for workers laid off or locked out by their
11 employers, including those whose jobs are outsourced, downgraded, or eliminated;
 - 12 • Protection of overtime pay;
 - 13 • The automatic recognition of a union based on signatures of a majority of those
14 represented and “Card Check” as a legitimate method for unionizing;
 - 15 • A workers' bill of rights that includes rights of assembly, association and free speech, due
16 process, freedom from discrimination; and democracy within unions;
 - 17 • Equal participation between labor and employers in the management of workers'
18 pensions;
 - 19 • Competitive and commensurate wages for all workers, whether they are private sector,
20 non-profit, or state and local government employees;
 - 21 • Veterans, womxn, people of color, people with disabilities and people of all sexual
22 orientations and gender identities earning equal compensation for equivalent work;
 - 23 • Establishment and enforcement of healthy workplace laws, including anti-bullying and
24 anti-harassment laws;
 - 25 • Safe and adequate housing, medical care and sanitary facilities for all workers, including
26 temporary, migrant, seasonal and contract workers;
 - 27 • Paid sick, safe, and family leave for both private and public employees in shops of more
28 than four full time equivalent employees;
 - 29 • Creation of an accrual system for paid leave for all workers;
 - 30 • Withholding federal contracts from United States corporations that choose to locate
31 “offshore” for tax shelter purposes;
 - 32 • Full funding for programs such as childcare, adult daycare, and flextime to care for
33 family members;
 - 34 • Increase the state and federal minimum wage, to be a living wage by 2020, indexed to
35 inflation thereafter;
 - 36 • Support unions by respecting picket lines;
 - 37 • Workers negotiating agency fees or “Fair Share” clauses into labor agreements;

- 1 • Government and private industry to recover and make available to the workers medical
2 and industrial hygiene records related to all workers so that they are paid just
3 compensation for any injuries or illnesses incurred during their employment or as a
4 result of their employment;
- 5 • Prosecution of employers who force workers to work off the clock;
- 6 • Full enforcement of current health and safety labor laws and prosecution of those
7 employers that violate those laws;
- 8 • The publication of the official unemployment statistics that include persons who are
9 underemployed or have given up looking for work, or whose benefits have been
10 exhausted;
- 11 • Strengthening, fully funding and staffing the National Labor Relations Board and the
12 imposition of meaningful penalties on employers engaged in unfair practices;
- 13 • Preference for Washington State residents on public works projects;
- 14 • Market-based compensation for public employees;
- 15 • Buying American – the use of U.S. products in manufacturing and in construction;
- 16 • Rescinding the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006 so that the postal
17 service may return to fiscal soundness;
- 18 • Expanded and more effective “whistle blower” protection for all workers at all levels on
19 all public and private jobs with access to courts and protection from retaliation;
- 20 • Strengthening solidarity of domestic and foreign workers and their unions both
21 domestically and internationally in a globalized economy;
- 22 • Repeal of Taft-Hartley and other existing anti-union legislation, to strengthen workers’
23 rights.

24

25 **We oppose:**

26

- 27 • “Right-to-work” and other anti-union legislation;
- 28 • Any attacks on the Davis-Bacon Acts, prevailing wage laws;
- 29 • Exploitation of seasonal, temporary, migrant and contract workers;
- 30 • Corporations using mergers and bankruptcy courts to abscond with workers’ pensions;
- 31 • Under-funding of pension liabilities by either the private or public sector;
- 32 • Foreign trade agreements, such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), that put the
33 interests of corporations above the rights of workers and environmental protections that
34 overrule the authority of federal, tribal, state, and local governments;
- 35 • All forms of wage and tip theft;
- 36 • Using tips as part of a minimum wage calculation;
- 37 • Use of permanent replacement workers during strikes;

- 1 • Supplanting or displacing public employees with low-wage, low-benefit contract
2 employees or prison labor;
- 3 • The unilateral redefining of workers as independent contractors to reduce labor costs,
4 rendering workers ineligible for benefits and other protection;
- 5 • The privatization of workers compensation;
- 6 • Firing without just cause;
- 7 • Public employee pension reductions by the legislature;
- 8 • Balancing the public budget with pension funds;
- 9 • Gratuitous attacks by elected officials upon labor organizations, public and private
10 employees;
- 11 • Release of personal information of publicly funded employees;
- 12 • Any attempt to privatize the Social Security retirement system;
- 13 • Any attempt to cut Social Security benefits or raise retirement age;
- 14 • Hiring policies that discriminate against unemployed applicants, felons, and military
15 veterans with a discharge other than honorable.

XVI. Law and the Justice System

Equitably applied law and justice regardless of race or socioeconomic status is the cornerstone of a just society. We believe the government has the responsibility to prevent crime in a constitutional manner that respects the rights of all people, including rights to due process and equal protections under the law. We believe in the deconstruction of systemic and structural racism, sexism and classism within the justice system.

We believe:

- The U.S. cannot claim the moral high ground among the nations of the world in terms of its treatment of its own people unless substantial systemic and structural changes are made in our civil and criminal justice system;
- The strikingly disproportional negative impact of our civil and criminal justice system on people based on race, sexual orientation and gender identity, disability and class demands our attention and cries out for justice too long denied;
- Nonviolent conflict resolution, education, youth programs, health care, social services, rehabilitation, and living wage jobs will reduce crime and violence;
- That adequate drug treatment, education, and decriminalization should be used to reduce the public health crisis of drug abuse and associated crime;
- The criminal justice system is the appropriate venue for prosecution of all violent crimes, including acts of terrorism.

We call for:

Courageous conversations in our communities and across the nation about the race-, disability-, and class-based inequities of our civil and criminal justice systems;

Education for Equality, Justice for All and Crime Reduction

- Providing basic Education (especially to low income communities) on how to work with the justice system (both Civil and Criminal cases) prior to their need for it;
- Basic human rights for all people confined in various facilities, including those confined in jails, prisons or mental facilities (including elder care dementia wards);
- Breaking the school-to-prison pipeline;

1 Court reform

- 2 • Absolutely no leniency for judicial corruption at any level;
- 3 • Equal treatment under the law and by the court for public officials, police officers and
- 4 ordinary citizens;
- 5 • Equal justice available for all court cases: Providing adequate funding for indigent
- 6 defendants in criminal, civil, and family court cases;
- 7 • Asset seizures to be based on court conviction rather than mere arrest or presumption of
- 8 guilt;
- 9 • Increased government efforts, including data collection, and legislation to address
- 10 adequate minority representation on juries;
- 11 • Ongoing cultural sensitivity training for all public service government employees;
- 12 • Prohibition of arrest or detention on behalf of judgments for private debt collection
- 13 corporations, also known as debtor examination warrants.
- 14 • Prohibition of the sale of court fines and fees to private debt collectors;
- 15 • Determinate sentencing, with the provision that judges must supply in writing reasons
- 16 for exceeding limits;
- 17 • Restoring habeas corpus for citizens and non-citizens, completely and without
- 18 compromise;
- 19 • Reform of the state adult guardianship system;

20
21 Criminal Justice Reform/Prison Reform

- 22 • Comprehensive criminal justice reform rooted in a national commitment to identify,
- 23 challenge, and eliminate the underlying conditions in our criminal justice system that
- 24 give rise to the disproportionately negative treatment of people based upon race, class,
- 25 sexual orientation and gender identity, religion or disability;
- 26 • Immediate and comprehensive action to end racial profiling and the disproportionately
- 27 high imprisonment of people of color, and to reduce the U.S.'s overall incarceration rate,
- 28 which is the highest in the world;
- 29 • An end to using prisons to house persons with mental health or addiction issues;
- 30 • Ending the privatization of prisons and juvenile detention facilities and the use of forced
- 31 and/or undercompensated prison labor to generate corporate profits;

32
33 Criminal Rights /Prisoner Rights

- 34 • Abolition of solitary confinement;
- 35 • Repealing the death penalty;
- 36 • Allowing the incarcerated to retain their voting rights;
- 37 • Alternatives to money bail for those charged with crimes;
- 38 • Abolishment of the Three Strike laws;

- 1 • No “warehousing” of prisoners;
- 2 • No withholding treatments for trans- and gender- nonconforming inmates;

3
4 Criminal Rehabilitation and Alternatives

- 5 • The creation and funding of alternatives to incarceration within the criminal justice
6 system at both the pre-conviction stage and the post-conviction stage;
- 7 • Incarceration that prioritizes rehabilitation, with a focus on education and occupational
8 training;
- 9 • Providing all ex-offenders with the opportunity to re-enter and be productive members
10 of society with an assistance plan for transitional food, clothing, housing, and
11 employment for each person released from a local, state or federal institution;
- 12 • Rapid and consistent follow-up from probation services for violations;

13
14 Immigrant Rights

- 15 • Allowing foreign nationals to have access to consular officials if accused of a crime;
- 16 • Provision of a skilled interpreter and immigration assistant and community advocacy
17 representative for all individuals, prior to the signing of any document that affects
18 immigration status;
- 19 • Human rights and open hearings for all immigrants;
- 20 • Elimination of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) intervention in our local
21 court system;

22
23 Federal Law

- 24 • All U.S. Territories and protectorates, including the Mariana Islands and Guantanamo
25 Bay, to be subject to U. S. law including labor laws, due process, habeas corpus, and laws
26 against illegal detention;
- 27 • Repealing the USAPATRIOT Act;
- 28 • Enforcement of the Hate Crime Prevention Act;
- 29 • Congress and the U.S. Justice Department to investigate possible war crimes by any
30 administration;

31
32 Law Enforcement

- 33 • Courageous conversations in our communities and across the nation about the race- and
34 class-based challenges we face in fostering trust in community-police relations;
- 35 • No funding of law enforcement agencies by civil or criminal asset forfeiture;
- 36 • Affirming and valuing the role of law enforcement in protecting human life and serving
37 the community and prioritizing de-escalation techniques;

- 1 • Training for law enforcement and corrections officers how to serve more appropriately
- 2 people with mental or behavioral health issues so that officers are better prepared to
- 3 address all situations in a safe and humane manner;
- 4 • Repeal of “Stand Your Ground” laws that legalize shooting-first;
- 5 • Police forces to: be demilitarized, be held accountable for abusive practices, exercise
- 6 restraint in their dealing with peaceful assemblies and protests;
- 7 • Stop the excessive use of force in any situation;
- 8 • State and local governments must direct and train law enforcement to recognize that sex
- 9 workers against whom a crime has been committed have the same right to police
- 10 protection as any other constituent and should be treated with the same respect for their
- 11 dignity;
- 12 • Efforts to improve community-police relations by exploring strategies to provide civilian
- 13 oversight or review of situations where human and civil rights concerns arise regarding
- 14 police practices;
- 15 • Better support for the efforts of well-trained first responders;

16
17 **Drugs**

- 18 • Ending the war on drugs;
- 19 • Data-driven drug education, better funded drug courts, timely treatment and
- 20 community-based aftercare for offenders who need it;
- 21 • Repealing the ban on medical marijuana research and fund such research by the National
- 22 Institutes of Health (NIH);
- 23 • Convictions for possession of marijuana to be expunged and such prisoners immediately
- 24 released;

25
26 **Prosecution**

- 27 • Full funding of the Violence Against Women Act, services to crime victims, and
- 28 programs to prevent sexual violence;
- 29 • Timely DNA testing to free the innocent and convict the guilty;
- 30 • Legislation to ensure full funding and prompt completion of backlogged rape kits and
- 31 that the accumulation of backlog will not be allowed in the future;
- 32 • Investigation and prosecution of illegal actions of elected officials and corporate officers
- 33 no matter how high their office;
- 34 • Adequate punishments for white collar crime, including appropriate fines and jail time
- 35 commensurate with the damage done to society;
- 36 • Criminal asset forfeiture should be tightly bound to victim restitution and mitigation of
- 37 harm;
- 38 • Supporting survivors and honoring, respecting and assuming credibility of their stories;
- 39

1 Civil Justice Reform

- 2 • Making it a jailable offense to use civil litigation as a means to harass and sanction
3 whistle blowers;
- 4 • No judge to disallow a jury trial as per RCW 3.50.135;
- 5 • All civil cases involving loss of rights to either party MUST be allowed a trial by jury
6 before or after those rights are removed unless both parties state otherwise. This may
7 include a jury trial after a hearing that removes rights as in Vulnerable Adult Protection
8 Orders and Anti-harassment orders are issued;
- 9 • Any civil case deemed an “emergency” and pushed to court in less time than allowed by
10 civil rules and law must be allowed a re-hearing if either party wants it using the normal
11 civil rules and laws;
- 12 • Prosecution of lawyers and judges who violate their oath or duties under admittance to
13 WSBA as per RCW 2.48.220.

14

15 **We Oppose:**

- 16 • Using judicial and quasi-judicial immunity to conceal ethical violations of officers of the
17 court including but not limited to: disregarding laws, dismissing or inventing evidence
18 and perjury;
- 19 • Mandatory sentencing, coerced labor for detainees and inmates, prisoners outsourced
20 out-of-state and the use of prison labor on any contract bid in the State of Washington
21 that competes with private enterprise;
- 22 • Government spying on persons including the use of drone technology and collection of
23 personal meta-data without a legal warrant, which is a violation of 4th Amendment
24 protections against search and seizure;
- 25 • Exemption from independent investigation and/or prosecution of any government
26 officer responsible for ordering or participating in violation of domestic or international
27 law;
- 28 • Laws that criminalize free speech and peaceful assembly, regardless of the economic
29 impacts of those protected actions;
- 30 • Existing adult guardianship laws and practices which do not respect the freedom, liberty
31 and self-determination of individuals who are elderly (over 60) and/or disabled and
32 which do not respect the vital role of the family;
- 33 • We oppose the offering of religious programming in our prisons without offering a
34 secular alternative.

XVII. Media Reform

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

We believe:

- Democracy relies upon an informed citizenry;
- A free press is essential and valuable for democracy, for governance and for human development;
- The public airwaves and the Internet must serve everyone within the United States of America and must not be controlled by a few corporations;
- Access to all forms of media transmission should be provided for everyone within the United States of America;
- Reporters who accurately report on news and events should be protected from public and governmental abuse and retaliation.

We call for:

- Efforts by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to promote local ownership and diversity of viewpoints and reduce monopolization of media outlets;
- Reinstatement of station ownership caps, which were repealed in 1996, to limit the number of television stations, newspapers and other news outlets one media conglomerate may own and operate;
- Encouraging media ownership by womxn and minorities, and community media ownership;
- Strengthening community-level, non-profit and non-commercial radio and TV;
- Ample funding, free of political pressure, for public broadcasting to promote independence and discourage reliance on corporate sponsorships;
- Internet neutrality laws and policies, so that a few media companies will not have undue control over Internet search results and Internet content;
- Bringing the U.S. up to world standards by providing affordable, high-quality Internet access for all in every region in the country especially the expansion of broadband into rural areas;
- Management of broadcast frequencies and the Internet, which are owned by the public, in a way that serves the public interest;
- FCC enforcement of existing statutes that require disclosure of “true identity” of sponsors of political advertising;
- Diversity of ownership and programming as the primary principle of broadcast licensing;

- 1 • Reinstatement of the Fairness Doctrine for broadcast media and making it applicable to
- 2 cable networks, to promote greater balance in coverage;
- 3 • The enforcement of 47 USC § 315 - Candidates for Public Office. (The Equal
- 4 Opportunities requirement; censorship prohibition; allowance of station use; news
- 5 appearances exception; public interest; public issues discussion opportunities to all
- 6 government-controlled bandwidth and full funding and strict enforcement thereof); and
- 7 extension to all publicly regulated media outlets;
- 8 • Separate financial and editorial departments of news media companies;
- 9 • Reporting from warzones to be free of censorship, except as necessary to avoid revealing
- 10 tactical information or endangering our troops;
- 11 • Prompt adjudication of claims of “national security” and other questionable
- 12 classifications that delay timely news investigations and suppress investigative
- 13 journalism and timely response to freedom of information act requests;
- 14 • Journalists to be protected from unwarranted pressure to reveal their sources;
- 15 • Privacy of personal information including account user names and passwords;
- 16 • Protection and privacy of data created through a person’s on-line presence and activities;
- 17 • Promotion of media literacy.

18

19 **We oppose:**

20

- 21 • Foreign nations undermining trust in media;
- 22 • Suppression of reporters by employers or other entities that have power over them;
- 23 • Mergers of broadcast and print media that threaten the unrestricted availability of
- 24 information necessary to the functioning of a democratic society;
- 25 • Requiring noncommercial broadcasters to accept paid advertisements.

1 XVIII. Military and Veterans Affairs

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

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 funds,
10 provide oversight, and act to prevent the misuse of the military;
- 11 • Our military service members – active duty, reserve and National Guard – are entitled to
12 serve with a clear mission and adequate resources;
- 13 • Female military personnel and all others who rely on Tricare and military medical
14 facilities have the right to make their own reproductive decisions, with the same rights
15 accorded to civilians;
- 16 • Military contracts should be awarded based on fair and competitive bidding, with
17 preference given to U.S. companies and set-aside businesses.

18 **We call for:**

- 19 • Military service on our behalf to be performed only by individuals accountable to the
20 public, the law, and the Uniform Code of Military Justice, not by contractors exempt from
21 those restrictions;
- 22 • Military members who declare themselves conscientious objectors to be given due
23 process without fear of reprisal;
- 24 • Increased funding for investigative units under the Uniform Code of Military Justice
25 (UCMJ) for full prosecution of all sexual assaults, and of harassment based on gender,
26 religion, ethnicity, or sexual orientation, by military personnel;
- 27 • Removing jurisdiction, in cases of alleged sexual assault between members of the US
28 military, from the direct chain of command over either the complainant or the accused;
- 29 • Training our armed forces to respect the common dignity and civil rights of human
30 beings;
- 31 • Troops to be accorded mandatory breaks between overseas tours, strict time limits on
32 each tour of duty in a combat zone, and a strict limit on the total number of combat tours;
- 33 • Congressional review of overseas military installations commensurate with the work of
34 the Base Closure Commission for domestic facilities;

- 1 • Providing financial assistance, child care assistance, and no-cost life insurance
2 supplements for families of all military personnel deployed to hostile or combat areas;
- 3 • Ensuring that military personnel retain full enlistment bonuses despite being discharged
4 for service-related and/or combat related disabilities;
- 5 • Enforcement of the Geneva Conventions, through all levels of command, in the treatment
6 of all prisoners of war, enemy combatants, and detainees, regardless of the location of
7 their incarceration;
- 8 • Senior civilian and military leaders being held accountable for the orders they give and
9 responsible for the consequences thereof, and for protection of military personnel from
10 reprisals for refusal to follow illegal orders;
- 11 • The cessation of using enhanced interrogation techniques;
- 12 • A minimum five percent reduction in defense spending every year for five years;
- 13 • Providing all veterans with full, timely, no-cost treatment at local military or VA medical
14 facilities, regardless of the nature/character of their discharge, and providing retraining
15 for those who are disabled;
- 16 • Fully funding VA services;
- 17 • Modernizing the VA hiring process in particular, and USA Jobs in general, to match
18 private sector benchmarks for applicant processing and hiring completion;
- 19 • Adequate funding for long-term care and treatment of veterans at military medical
20 facilities, including treatment for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain
21 Injury;
- 22 • Active outreach to provide access to housing and services for homeless vets, and to
23 enable homeless veteran communities to be established through alternative shelter
24 opportunities;
- 25 • Providing separate job training and apprenticeship programs for veterans, that will
26 partner with labor and industry to provide immediate transition into guaranteed
27 employment;
- 28 • Encouraging employers to award veteran’s preference in hiring, and requiring employers
29 with government contracts to have a veteran’s set-aside in hiring to fulfill those contracts;
- 30 • Elimination of the Survivor’s Benefit Plan (SBP) Social Security offset when a widowed
31 military spouse reaches age 62;
- 32 • Environmental and impact cleanup from the development, deployment, and use of
33 nuclear, biological, chemical, or “depleted” uranium (dU) weapon systems;
- 34 • Modifying the Military Claims Act to provide legal assistance to those filing military-
35 related claims for property loss, personal injury or wrongful death, and to increase the
36 claims limitation to \$10,000,000;
- 37 • Identification of standards-based criteria for service in combat arms.

38 **We oppose:**

- 1 • Use of our military resources in unauthorized, unjustified, and/or pre-emptive wars
- 2 without the formal support of Congress;
- 3 • Further production and stockpiling of nuclear, biological, chemical, or “depleted”
- 4 uranium (dU) weapon systems;
- 5 • The use of active sonar in inland and U.S. coastal waters at levels that endanger wildlife;
- 6 • Unregulated use of civilian areas for military training;
- 7 • Discrimination based on gender or gender identity;
- 8 • Religious indoctrination of service members;
- 9 • U.S. training of foreign military or police forces that engage in human rights suppression;
- 10 • Privatization of the Department of Veterans Affairs, except where essential to provide
- 11 care for rural clinics and other situations covered under the Veterans Choice Act.

1 XIX. Reducing Gun Violence

2 The rule of law is a prerequisite for a democratic civil society. A good government provides for
3 the safety, security and justice for all, with care, fairness, and respect for each individual. We
4 believe that laws should protect all the lives of all people of our state, especially vulnerable
5 populations, such as our school children, from gun violence.

6 **We believe:**

7 The stringent enforcement of laws regulating the purchase, ownership, and safe handling of
8 firearms, while respecting the rights of responsible gun owners.

10 **We call for:**

- 11 • Comprehensive gun-sale background checks:
 - 12 ○ Including criminal, mental health, and domestic violence checks;
- 13 • Waiting periods, applicable to gun shows and other transactions;
- 14 • Mandatory registration and licensing;
- 15 • Raise the age requirement to 21 years of age for the purchase of fire arms;
- 16 • Requiring approved safe gun storage;
- 17 • Safety training for all gun owners;
- 18 • A limit on volume buys of firearms and ammunition by an individual;
- 19 • Total ban on assault style weapons and high capacity ammunition magazines larger than
20 10 rounds;
- 21 • Enforcement of criminal negligence laws that hold adults responsible for safeguarding
22 guns around children;
- 23 • Concealed carry permits to be valid only in the state of issuance or other states with
24 equal or higher standards;
- 25 • The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to investigate the causes of gun
26 violence.

1 **XX. Transportation**

2 Transportation capabilities and policies are critical to our economic success and our access to
3 the global economy. Innovation holds immense promise to improve our transportation
4 efficiency and environmental conditions, but we recognize the damage our current
5 infrastructure has done to our environment and to minority communities.

6 **We believe:**

7 Efficient, well-planned, multimodal transportation promotes a healthy economy, environment,
8 and community.

9 **We call for:**

- 10 • Significant public input and oversight into major transportation public works;
- 11 • Policies and public funding that make travel as safe and efficient as possible for all
- 12 modes of transportation, whether motorized or non-motorized;
- 13 • Expanding and enhancing accessible, safe, affordable and efficient public transportation,
- 14 including bus, rapid transit and light rail;
- 15 • Investments in public infrastructure that broaden individuals' multimodal transportation
- 16 choices;
- 17 • Increased state appropriations, local funding authority, and loan programs to address
- 18 infrastructure needs in accordance with state, regional, and local plans and policies;
- 19 • Using emerging technologies and developing policies that encourage alternative energy
- 20 for transportation;
- 21 • Instituting measures to reduce pollution and dependence on fossil fuels, including
- 22 increased fuel efficiency standards for all vehicles;
- 23 • Land use planning that decreases the need to drive;
- 24 • Policies that increase use of rail for passenger service and shipment of agricultural and
- 25 manufactured products while managing our rail system to prevent its domination by
- 26 coal and oil shipments;
- 27 • Washington's executive agencies and Legislature to adopt policies and laws to minimize
- 28 public safety dangers to our state caused by transportation of fossil fuels and other
- 29 hazardous materials;
- 30 • Development and funding of a statewide infrastructure to support use of electric
- 31 vehicles;
- 32 • A dual-track national high-speed rail system, with a dedicated right of way;
- 33 • An integrated partnership for travel through ridership jurisdictions;
- 34 • Maintaining existing public right-of-way for future public use;
- 35
- 36

- 1 • Expansion of the Regional Reduced Fare Permit to all transit agencies throughout the
- 2 State, to facilitate transfers between such agencies;
- 3 • Incentives for public transit agencies to join a common statewide payment-card system,
- 4 to make it easier for travelers to transfer between jurisdiction;
- 5 • Governments to invest in continued local access to needed transportation infrastructure,
- 6 including rural road and highway maintenance and improvement, to ensure
- 7 consideration of cities and counties outside the I-5 and I-90 corridors;
- 8 • Consideration of freight mobility in all proposed transportation infrastructure projects;
- 9 • Adequately staffed, maintained and funded publicly-operated ferry systems, as a critical
- 10 part of our overall transportation system;
- 11 • Supporting river navigation that does not degrade the environment;
- 12 • Consideration, in all transportation planning, of the effects on climate change; health; and
- 13 environmental impacts including water, earth, and air pollution;
- 14 • A strong US Merchant Marine and support of the Jones Act, and abolition of the Flag of
- 15 Convenience System that shipowners use to avoid labor, tax, and environmental laws.
- 16 • A re-start of the Bi-State I-5 Bridge from Portland to Vancouver, to benefit each of those
- 17 communities and encourages efficient transit between them by road, rail, and bicycle;
- 18 • Fringe land-use policies that enable innovation and improve land use for local
- 19 communities' benefit;
- 20 • Actions that improve the safety and efficiency of transporting radioactive material for
- 21 storage and recycling;
- 22 • Improving public and commercial transportation in rural parts of Washington.

23

24 **We oppose:**

25

- 26 • Privatization of transportation infrastructure;
- 27 • Coal and oil transport by rail or road without meaningful environmental safeguards, and
- 28 without provisions for safe traffic management through towns and cities.

1 XXI. Tribal Relations and Sovereignty

2 We must maintain a lasting and respectful relationship with Tribal Nations and oppose all
3 attempts to diminish tribal sovereignty, tribal culture, natural resources, or the general welfare
4 of tribes. We recognize this is essential to open and meaningful government-to-government
5 relations. We recognize the status of Urban Indian populations, and that the Federal Trust
6 responsibility expands beyond Tribal Reservation borders.

7 **We call for:**

- 8 • Recognizing that all Treaties signed under the authority of the United States, are the
9 supreme law of the land;
- 10 • Upholding the Treaties, Executive Orders, Agreements, made between Tribal Nations
11 and the Federal Government, which secured specific rights and privileges to sustain the
12 future of Tribal Nations;
- 13 • Upholding the principles of Indian Self-Determination throughout State government;
- 14 • Federal, state, and local governmental action to remove barriers to the Native vote;
- 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 Tribal
17 Nations;
- 18 • Establishing and maintaining tribal consultation prior to proposing or supporting
19 legislation or policies that impact Tribal Nations;
- 20 • Recognizing the right of Tribal Nations to prosecute non-tribal members committing a
21 crime on Tribal land;
- 22 • Recognizing legislation that reaffirms the Congressional intent of the Indian
23 Reorganization Act, authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for all
24 federally recognized Tribal Nations;
- 25 • Amending the federal regulations to streamline the recognition process of Tribal Nations,
26 and providing regulations for recognition of a Native Hawaiian Nation;
- 27 • Recognizing the principles in the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous
28 People;
- 29 • Supporting the rights of tribes to regulate and manage their own environment and
30 natural resources, including the right to hunt, fish and gather in their traditional usual
31 and accustomed places;
- 32 • Making a stronger effort to communicate and appoint tribal citizens to state boards and
33 commissions in order to provide an equitable and fair representation in these policy and
34 decision making entities;
- 35 • Streamlining state/federal funding and programs that support tribes having the
36 flexibility to develop their economies;

- 1 • Working with tribes to remove economic barriers, such as state taxation, to increase
2 capital development funds for Tribal Nations;
- 3 • Addressing the achievement gap and disparities in education of Native students;
- 4 • Upholding the vision and goals of Indian Education and Self-Determination in all aspects
5 of Indian Education at the preschool through higher education and lifelong learning;
- 6 • Promoting the essential role of Native families and parent committees in the decision-
7 making process of their children’s education, health and well-being;
- 8 • Continuing the development of Tribal Compact Schools;
- 9 • Continuing the implementation of the state mandated “Since Time Immemorial” Tribal
10 Sovereignty curriculum;
- 11 • Continuing meaningful consultation with state, local, tribal and federal Indian education
12 programs;
- 13 • Acknowledging the high percentage of the push out/ drop-out rate of Urban Natives
14 students in middle and high school;
- 15 • Increased governmental efforts, including data collection, to identify American Indian
16 and Alaska Native students who are multi-racial to address necessary education funding
17 purposes and programs;
- 18 • Funding the American Indian Health Commission for Washington State and its work
19 with four state agencies and the Health Benefit Exchange;
- 20 • Full implementation of the state law licensing mid-level dental professionals, such as
21 dental health aide therapists, to address the lack of access to dental care;
- 22 • Supporting the construction of one or more tribal specialty care facilities to address the
23 lack of access to medical specialists and shift health care costs from the state to the federal
24 government to fulfill its trust responsibility;
- 25 • Funding the urban Indian health organizations to enable them to address more of the
26 health needs of Native Americans in urban areas who do not have access to tribal health
27 facilities;
- 28 • Funding cultural, health and mental health service organizations that advance the socio-
29 economic conditions for on and off reservation tribal communities;
- 30 • Eliminating the harmful legacy of “Indian Mascots” in all sports;
- 31 • Declaring the second Monday in October as “Indigenous Peoples Day” in Washington
32 State;
- 33 • Recognizing the unique history and cultural relationships of the lands, waterways, usual
34 and accustomed areas in the state which are valued among Tribal Nations;
- 35 • Fully engaging and including tribes in discussions and actions regarding climate change,
36 water appropriation, the repair of culverts, and land management plans;
- 37 • Recognizing the rights of Tribal members living in non-rural areas.

- 1 • Acknowledgement of Urban Indians who are enrolled in Federally Recognized Tribes
2 across the United States;
- 3 • Acknowledgement of Urban Indians not enrolled due to the Indian Relocation Act of
4 1952, children lost to adoption prior to the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, Tribal
5 members disenrolled and the United States policy to terminate Indian Tribes from mid-
6 1940 thru mid-1960;
- 7 • Acknowledgment that the Federal trust responsibility that applies to Tribes do not follow
8 Urban Indians when they leave traditional Tribal lands; whereby, Urban Indians have
9 been systematically disenfranchised from Tribal systems and its resources, and must not
10 remain invisible to local, State and Federal Governments;
- 11 • Including an Urban Indian Liaison as part of the Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs to
12 improve community relations with Urban Indians;
- 13 • Congress to lift the ban on inadequate Urban Indian Health Care funding from the
14 Indian Health Service (“IHS”) to fulfill its trust responsibility to Urban Indians, whereby,
15 IHS funds should never be taken from the Federally Recognized Tribal allotment to fund
16 Urban Indian Health Care;
- 17 • Congress to fund UIHP’s 100% Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) payment
18 for encounters with Urban Native Clients as part of the trust responsibility; FMAP
19 funding would save on State Medicaid spending that could be reinvested into the Indian
20 Health Service, Tribal 638 Contracts, and UIH (I/T/U) system of care for better health
21 outcomes of Urban Natives care;
- 22 • Recognizing that Urban Indians make up a disproportionate percentage of the homeless
23 population;
- 24 • For Police Officer training on cross-cultural Urban Native communication to avoid
25 discriminatory policing;
- 26 • Congress to fully fund the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and provide judicial
27 training on the Act’s Indian provisions;
- 28 • Providing judicial training on the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 and the Washington
29 Indian Child Welfare Act of 2013 to eliminate the loss of Native children’s ties and
30 identities.

31 **We Oppose:**

- 32 • The abrogation of any tribal treaty or tribal agreement by any party;
- 33 • Forced assimilation and its distortion of United States History;
- 34 • The implementation of Public Law 280, which “establishes a method by which states can
35 assume jurisdiction over reservation Indians.”