

# 2022 WSDCC Legislative Priorities

## **Fiscal Responsibility & Revenue Reform**

- Pass a Fair Share Tax
- Make the Estate Tax more progressive
- Require that tax breaks/exemptions be accounted for and displayed as part of our operating budget
- Create the Washington State Investment Trust so we have our own publicly owned state bank

## **Climate Action & Environmental Protection**

- Protect riparian regions in Growth Management Act.
- Modify the Growth Management Act to include climate change, public transit components, and close sprawl loophole
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by expanding building standards, and financing electrification of buildings
- Renew Recycling Act modernizes recycling system so packaging will truly be reusable, compostable, or recyclable
- Support changes needed to address the governor's veto on the clean energy and Clean Fuel Standard
- Fund the Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act

## **Police Accountability**

- Require truly independent prosecutions of deadly force incidents
- Remove barriers for victims/families to sue and hold officers and departments accountable for misconduct, eliminating qualified immunity as a defense.
- Restrict the use of solitary confinement

## **Social Justice & Racial Equity**

- Advance human rights by repealing the state's unenforceable death penalty statute
- Implement the recommendations of the AGO's Hate Crimes advisory Working Group
- Provide public reimbursement to Northwest Indian College for non-native students.
- Uphold tribal fishing rights by improving water quality and removing barriers to fish passage

## **Electoral Reform**

- Repeal statewide "advisory votes" for bills that increase or recover revenue.
- Overhaul how ballot titles are developed to eliminate abusive practices like ballot title shopping
- Create a citizen initiative review (CIR) process to evaluate initiatives
- Phase out odd-year elections
- Move the state primary election from August to May and adjust associated dates & timelines
- Allow a simple majority of voters to authorize school district bonds
- Require a fiscal impact statement for any ballot measure that will repeal, levy, or modify any tax or fee.

## **Education**

- Expanded support for Career and Technical Education
- Ensure deaf and hard of hearing children have a fluent first language by kindergarten with LEAD-K
- Support our educators by restoring cost of living (COLA) increases for Plan 1 retirees
- Expanded support for mental health services in public schools
- Support Retention of marginalized students with less than a median income with small "Bridge Grants" for food, housing, childcare so that they can complete Higher Ed and Apprenticeship Credentials to fill workforce shortages

## **Stronger Rural Washington**

- Reauthorize tax for economic development and public facilities in rural Washington
- Make it easier for public utility districts to provide broadband connectivity to all Washingtonians
- Create the occupation of dental therapist to improve oral hygiene care for rural and tribal communities
- Grow the Nurse-Family Partnership to serve more of Washington's rural counties

## **Healthcare**

- Fully support an implementation of single payer universal healthcare in Washington State
- Pass the Keep Our Care Act to ensure future healthcare consolidations do not perpetuate discriminatory restrictions to reproductive, gender-affirming, or end-of-life care or exacerbate affordability barriers
- Increase access to Death with Dignity
- Support Immigrant Health Care to ensure basic health care for undocumented immigrants.
- Reform drug pricing

Recommended DO PASS by the Advocacy Committee at their meeting on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022

## **2022 WSDCC Legislative Priorities**

- Support Safe Staffing of Hospitals to address the critical nurse shortage in Washington
- Amend the Long-Term Care Trust Act to equitably distribute benefits to all workers.
- Allocate funding to expand the establishment of Medically Assisted Treatment Centers to aid communities impacted by substance abuse and opioid addiction.

### **Attainable and sustainable Housing**

- Prevent foreclosures by expanding resources for families that belong to communities of color
- Create middle housing near transit and in areas traditionally dedicated to single-family detached housing.
- Create housing that is attainable, sustainable, and equitable for all persons

### **Labor Rights**

- Pass the Silenced No More Act to prevent corporations from using Non-Disclosure Agreements to silence victims of harassment and discrimination.
- Pass the Worker Protection Act allowing whistleblowers to bring action for violations of workplace protections.

### **Public Safety and Gun Responsibility**

- Ban open carry at election offices and official public meetings and public buildings
- Treatment and Recovery Act to decriminalize the possession of small amounts of drugs
- Ban the sale of military grade weapons, modifying accessories, and ammunition to civilians
- Prioritize treatment over penalties for drunk driving, especially for repeat offenders
- Bring back parole for all and create a Community Review Board to reduce incarceration rates
- Provide for the elimination of cash bail

### **Emergency Readiness and Pandemic Response**

- Increase funding for geologic hazards mapping plus earthquake, tsunami, and landslide readiness
- Amend our RCWs to reduce reliance on recurring emergency proclamations during pandemics

### **Technology**

- Adopt the People's Privacy Act
- Strengthen our state's digital defenses to protect critical data like our voter rolls
- Secure public cyber resources and means of gathering public input against abuse by bots
- Bar the use of facial recognition technology by state agencies and local governments
- Implement right to repair legislation

### **Transportation**

- Improvements to passenger and freight rail by investing in Amtrak on existing corridors and additional rural corridors.
- Ensure that carbon pricing revenue from the Climate Commitment Act is not used for projects that are eligible for funding from gas taxes.
- Pass a transportation package that focuses on equitable transit investments and road maintenance without expansion of capacity for automobiles.