

# Washington State Democratic Party

## Adopted 2020 Legislative Priorities [Page 1]

*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. These are our 2020 Washington State legislative priorities.*

### **Fiscal Responsibility & Revenue Reform**

- Levy a capital gains tax on the wealthy to fund K-12 schools and higher education
- Lower business and occupation tax obligations for small businesses by raising the exemption threshold
- Require that tax breaks/exemptions be regularly accounted for through a tax expenditure budget
- Safeguard tax dollars by mandating greater accountability and transparency in government contracting

### **Climate Action & Environmental Protection**

- Reduce emissions by adopting California's standards for zero emission vehicles and medium duty trucks
- Require single-use plastic bags, straws, and containers to be phased out of stores and restaurants
- Prohibit the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife from killing any more of Washington's wolves
- Prohibit the use of neonicotinoids to save our bees and other pollinators from annihilation

### **Social Justice, Equity for Tribes, & Legislative Accountability**

- Hold a vote on expelling militant fundamentalist Matt Shea from the State House of Representatives
- Provide public reimbursement to Northwest Indian College for non-native students
- Expand WLAD to prohibit discrimination on the basis of citizenship status whenever possible
- Pass the HEAL Act to address environmental health disparities that affect communities of color

### **Education**

- Require comprehensive sexual health and substance abuse education consistent with learning standards
- Increase funding for vocational education, special education, early learning, and preschool
- Ensure our deaf and hard of hearing children have a fluent first language by kindergarten with LEAD-K
- Take care of our educators by restoring cost of living (COLA) increases for Plan 1 retirees
- Require education on climate disruption, mass extinction, and actions for environmental protection

### **Stronger Rural Washington**

- Establish a sustainable farms and fields grant program to strengthen Washington's agricultural sector
- Require dairies to register under the Dairy Nutrient Program and Confined Animal Feeding Operations
- Empower the Department of Natural Resources to provide competitive community forest grants
- Make it easier for public utility districts to provide broadband connectivity to rural Washingtonians

### **Electoral Reform**

- Repeal Tim Eyman's push polls (erroneously called advisory votes)
- Strengthen funding for the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC)
- Increase the number of same-day voter registration sites and accessible voting centers

# Washington State Democratic Party

## Adopted 2020 Legislative Priorities [Page 2]

*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. These are our 2020 Washington State legislative priorities (continued).*

### **Healthcare**

- Expand Apple Health to provide dental care coverage for young adults up to the age of twenty-six
- Create the occupation of dental therapist to improve oral hygiene care for rural and tribal communities
- Adopt an evidence-based approach to modernize the control of communicable diseases like HIV/AIDS
- Grow the Nurse-Family Partnership to serve more of Washington's rural counties
- Allocate funding to expand the establishment of Medically Assisted Treatment Centers to aid communities impacted by substance abuse and opioid addiction

### **Housing, Labor Rights, & Economic Security**

- Enact additional protections for Washington's tenants, including rent control legislation
- Extend the property tax exemption for rural counties by five years to boost affordable housing projects
- Protect workers by establishing a secure scheduling law to set scheduling and notification standards
- Establish a minimum crew size for freight trains hauling hazardous cargo

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

- Advance human rights and community safety by abolishing the death penalty
- Increase funding for geologic hazards mapping plus earthquake, tsunami, and landslide readiness
- Ban the sale of military-grade "assault" weapons and ammunition to civilians
- Bolster penalties for drunk driving, especially for repeat offenders who endanger the public

### **Technology**

- Adopt the Washington Internet Privacy Protection 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

### **Transportation**

- Increase funding for multimodal transportation projects that reduce auto dependence
- Appropriate additional funding for electric vehicle charging stations
- Allow cities to protect pedestrians and transit riders by deploying cameras to enforce traffic laws
- Allocate more resources to Amtrak Cascades to enable full implementation of its long range plan
- Strengthen I-5 and make it earthquake-resilient; accelerate design of a new Columbia River Crossing