

Washington State First Legislative District Democrats Platform

We are the Washington State First Legislative District Democrats; a volunteer-run organization dedicated to pursuing the goal of electing good Democrats to political office to represent the American people's best interests. We are guided by the platforms of the Snohomish and King County Democratic Parties, the Washington State Democratic Party, and the Democratic National Committee (http://s3.amazonaws.com/uploads.democrats.org/Downloads/2016_DNC_Platform.pdf). We are in accord with the 2018 Washington State Democratic Legislative Priorities Agenda (<https://www.wa-democrats.org/issues>). Values that guide our work include:

Healthcare:

We believe that health care is a basic human right. Our government should assure and guarantee, by law, accessible and affordable health care for all, in a bipartisan manner.

- We believe that universal health care and moving to a public single-payer system is the best mechanism by which to achieve this goal; A system which would guarantee medical care from prenatal through end of life, including dental care, vision, mental health, prescription drug benefits, treatment and care for catastrophic illness, long-term care, and provisions for reproductive choice, disease prevention, and alternative treatments.
- We support the "Affordable Care Act" as the law of the land to protect all citizens with affordable coverage.
- We support the defense and adequate funding of Medicare and Medicaid.
- We support unrestricted access to women's reproductive healthcare, including public funding for Planned Parenthood.
- We support a patient's right to access and choice between all medical treatment options according to their decision alone, in consultation with the physician of their choice, without hindrance by institutions exercising religious or political doctrine, or by excessive fees/exclusive policies that limit life-saving treatment to the wealthy.
- We support a patient's right to make their own end-of-life decisions and other provisions of the Death with Dignity Act.

Environment:

We believe that all people, including future generations, have the right to clean air, water, and a healthy natural environment. We must strive to be responsible stewards of the environment, our communities, and our planet. Climate change is real. Climate change is a crisis that must be addressed now.

- We support a near-term phase-out of fossil fuel use, in favor of renewable energy resources such as wind, solar and new advances.
- We support setting local municipal goals to advance the use of renewable energies.
- We support institution of a carbon tax.
- We support restoration of forests and wetlands, preservation of our public lands and protection of our natural habitats

Transportation/infrastructure:

We believe the people of the 1st LD and Washington State require and deserve an efficient, well-planned, multimodal transportation system that promotes a healthy economy, environment, and community.

- We support a comprehensive transportation plan that addresses the need for mass transit that serves all our citizens, eliminates bottlenecks and provides sufficient funding to move us away from reliance on fossil fuels.
- We support institution of impact fees so that the corporations and developers who are profiting from the health and beauty of our region, and who are contributing significantly to gridlock and environmental decay,

also contribute to the civic and transportation infrastructure and communities that make their profits possible.

- Our transportation plan should be focused on the maximum benefit to the most residents and undertaken only with resident input.
- We support legislation that prevents gridlock and politicization of the budget process.

Election Reform:

In our Democracy, voting is a sacred right and responsibility.

- We are committed to ensuring that all citizens be given a vote, with equal right and access to voting, without interference by political restrictions that target vulnerable populations.
- We support legislation to ensure increased voter registration and equal access and opportunity to vote for all people.
- We support people over corporations. We expect our government to serve the people of this nation, as it was intended to do. Corporations are not people and should not be recognized or considered as citizens or independent entities with respect to consideration for government benefit or influence.
- We support a constitutional amendment to reverse Citizens United and other Supreme Court decisions (such as *Burwell vs. Hobby Lobby*) which support the idea that “corporations are people”. Money is not speech and should not have a voice in our government. Corporations are not people and shall not be given the rights of citizens or be afforded protections of any kind over the citizens of this country
- We support comprehensive political campaign contribution reform to restrict contributions to individuals, and state-mandated campaign contribution caps, to level the playing field between candidates.
- We support elimination of gerrymandering, on a nationwide basis, by taking districting out of the hands of politicians and instituting independent districting commissions (as have the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Montana, and Washington State)¹.
- We support an open and transparent election process that provides for public scrutiny and limitations on political contributions.
- We support civility and unity within the Democratic Party; we urge all members to support Democratic principles and values by endorsing the candidate chosen by the voters.

Equal Rights/Non-Discrimination:

We maintain that inherent dignity and equal and inalienable rights for all human beings are the foundations of freedom, justice, and peace in the world. As Democrats, we are, and will remain, at the forefront of the struggle to extend social, political, economic, and legal rights to all persons. It is our responsibility to protect the rights and welfare of all people within our borders.

- Discrimination in any manifestation is wrong and must be objectively identified and eliminated.
 - We protect all people from discrimination of any kind; including discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, military service, insurance, licensing or education based on race, religion, age, sex, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, economic status, disability, physical size, political affiliation or national origin.
 - Those who face discrimination must be afforded the legal means and economic opportunities to overcome such injustice.
 - Those who discriminate will be challenged and face consequences.
 - We support Equal Pay for Equal Work
 - We support the Equal Rights Amendment.
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- We acknowledge that all people have the right to sovereignty over their own bodies;
- We support strong legislation, treatment programs, and education designed to reduce harassment, intimidation, domestic or sexual violence, and bullying in the workplace.

Education:

We believe that equal opportunity can only be achieved with equal access to quality education. It is our responsibility, as citizens of Washington State and the United States of America, to provide for the education of all our children.

- We support a fully funded, free, and accountable Public Education System, subject to public oversight, that provides equitable education for all people, as mandated by our state constitution.
- We support free college education.
- We support provision of meal and nutrition programs, before/after school care and pre-school/early childhood education programs to ensure all students receive an equal opportunity to succeed.
- We support full assessment of all pre-K children to identify learning abilities, disabilities, and potential risks to ensure that all children receive the support they need to reach their full potential as the future of our country.
- We expect our legislature to comply fully with the State Supreme Court's McLeary decision to fund education fully.
- We expect our legislature to comply with the Washington State Constitution's mandate to provide ample funding for the education of all children within our borders. Sufficient is not ample.
- We support tax reform to ensure equity and ample education funding.
- We support uncoupling school bonds from the state non-education capital budget and passing them with a simple majority.

Immigration:

We are a nation of diverse cultures. Immigrants strengthen the United States of America.

All immigrants should be afforded a fair, safe, and timely determination of their status. All people within our borders should be afforded full human rights.

- We believe that all people, regardless of their country of origin or their immigration status, deserve to be treated fairly, respectfully, and with dignity.
- We believe that all people, regardless of their country of origin or their immigration status, have a right to equal treatment under the law.
- We support legislation to prevent discrimination in wages and working conditions for immigrant workers, including access to safe and adequate housing, medical care, and educational opportunities.
- We oppose state or local police involvement in the enforcement of federal immigration laws.
- We call on all law and immigration enforcement officials to be held to a constitutional standard, to treat all people with the respect accorded a citizen and required to show due cause.

Free Trade/Labor/Tax Reform:

To sustain a strong economy with strong communities we believe that this requires living-wage jobs, tax fairness, opportunity, and shared prosperity for all.

- We support implementation of a progressive tax system to restore economic equity and eliminate the income and wealth gap crisis in this nation.
- We support organized labor and a livable minimum wage
- We support enactment and enforcement of regulations to ensure a safe working environment.

- We support legislation that ensures fairness in the workplace and equitable provision of a livable retirement program for all workers.
- We support comprehensive fair trade policies that promote US jobs and economic health

Public Safety:

The Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States reads: “A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed”. We recognize that the right to bear arms, as prescribed in the constitution, is provided for the freedom to form and arm a militia, as needed to assure the protection of our citizens against attempted tyranny and invasion. This applies to the individual right to bear arms, outside the scope of a regulated militia. However, we assert that firearms are a public health issue:

- We assert that it is the responsibility of any individual who would bear arms to recognize;
 - That they live in an interconnected society and
 - They must, therefore, recognize the impact of the presence of their arms and
 - They must respect the safety and rights of the other individuals resident in the community they inhabit.
- We assert that the right of any individual to bear arms of any kind does not rest upon unrestricted individual preference and does not pre-empt the public safety or the safety of other individuals against endangerment by those who would bear arms in their proximity.
- We support common sense gun safety laws that hold gun owners responsible for the registration, maintenance, and control of their weapons and the protection of the community from any potential harm caused by their weapons—as we do for the owner of any motor vehicle, including a requirement for liability insurance. Therefore,
- We support legislation that would
 - Ban all assault weapons and associated devices (bump stocks, high-capacity magazines, etc.) outside the military.
 - Ban any mechanism that modifies guns to increase their lethal impact (silencers, flash suppressors, etc.).
 - Ban the presence of unlocked arms of any kind in the vicinity of schools or community gatherings.
 - Require comprehensive gun-sale background checks, including criminal, mental health, and domestic violence checks, and waiting periods, applicable to gun shows and all other transactions.
 - Require mandatory registration and licensing, safe gun storage and safety training for all gun owners.
 - Place a limit on volume buys of firearms by an individual.
- We support the implementation of I-940 to de-escalate the use of deadly force by law enforcement.
- We support legislation that provides public access to current information on the presence and location of firearms in the community.

Passed by the 1st Legislative District Democrats at the 2018 Caucus on 3/24/18