

King County Democrats Legislative Action Committee DRAFT 2013 Legislative Agenda

1. Revenue & Tax Reform (Sarajane Siegfriedt, lead)

- Require that all corporate tax exemptions have a 5-year sunset provision, a statement of legislative intent, annual performance reports and are included in the Governor's budget (visibility)
- Repeal non-performing corporate tax breaks
- Raise revenue, starting with a capital gains tax of 5% on gains over \$10,000 (per couple)
- Oppose regressive taxes including any increase in the sales tax; support reforms that make state taxes more progressive

2. Election & Initiative Reform

- Support Joint Resolutions to Congress to amend the Constitution to declare that corporations are not "natural persons" for purposes of political speech and the use of money shall not be deemed to be a form of speech
- Protect the citizen initiative process and oppose initiatives purchased by corporations

3. Banking and Predatory Lending

- Establish a public state bank, the Washington Investment Trust, to retain state funds in the state and to increase credit for infrastructure, students, farmers and community development
- Oppose any effort to weaken consumer protection in the 2009 predatory payday lending act

4. Criminal Justice (Tara Gallagher and Terry Thorsos)

- Abolish the death penalty
- Abolish the 3-strikes law or revise it to eliminate lowest-level crimes
- Protect the rights of medical cannabis users
- Support WA State TRUST Act so that local law enforcement do not place 48-hr. holds on immigrants on federal immigration database

5. Housing (Sarajane Siegfriedt)

- Promote State Housing Trust Fund at \$100 million as a shovel-ready jobs bill to build low-income housing
- Define "affordable housing" in law for those making < 80% of AMI (area median income), "workforce housing" as 30% to 60% of AMI
- Pass Fair Tenant Screening Act to regulate screeners and make background and credit reports "portable," good for 60 days

6. Health and Human Services (Sarajane Siegfriedt & Martha Koester)

For more information, contact:

Sarajane Siegfriedt, Chair Sarajane3h@comcast.net

- Restore and protect poverty programs: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), quality day care, Apple Health for Kids, adult dental care, long-term care, Emergency Food Assistance, mental health, substance abuse prevention and treatment, reproductive health and disability programs
- Implement the Health Benefit Exchange and fully expand Medicaid
- Support WA Health Security Trust (state single-payer healthcare)

7. Education (Jack Whelan)

- Increase funding for Basic Education K-12 by \$1 billion as ordered by the State Supreme Court
- Restore higher education funding to 2009 levels
- Protect funding for early childhood education
- Implement charter schools initiative by:
 - Requiring charter holders to be subject to state open meetings and open records laws
 - Requiring public meetings before parent/teacher trigger signatures are gathered to convert a traditional school to a charter school
 - Insuring charters are targeted to low-performing schools by requiring 2 poverty school charters per 1 charter for other schools

8. Labor (Brad Larssen and Jim Flynn)

- Increase capital budget to support public construction projects and to create jobs
- Require prevailing wages to be paid on public/private partnerships and projects involving public money or public land
- Eliminate tax and wage theft—prohibit misclassification of workers as independent contractors
- Support public school teachers by lowering classroom sizes
- Support Family & Medical Leave Insurance
- Oppose cuts to public employee pay, pensions and healthcare

9. Transportation/Transit (Sara Franklin)

- Authorize sustainable progressive local, regional and state funding for transit
- Promote a Value-Added Vehicle Tax (MVET) as a fair, progressive and sustainable funding source for transit and ferries
- Improve and maintain roads, bridges, highways, transit options, sidewalks and bikeways
- Provide reliable and accessible transportation to transit-dependent populations
- Include health as a goal for state transportation spending

10. Environment (Environmental Priorities Coalition)

- Toxic-free Kids and Families—protect children's health from products with harmful chemicals
- Reverse climate change—support freedom from fossil fuels
- Invest in environmentally friendly capital budget projects

For more information, contact:

Sarajane Siegfriedt, Chair Sarajane3h@comcast.net