

King County Democrats 2016 Legislative Agenda

1. Revenue & Tax Reform:

- Progressive new revenue, including capital gains tax, to fulfill the state's paramount duty to amply fund Basic Education in compliance with the *McCleary* decision (**Budget**)
- Close corporate tax exemptions that lack accountable performance objectives and results
- Require the Legislature to adopt a Tax Expenditure Budget (HB1239/SB5492)
- Support Washington Investment Trust (i.e., state bank) (SB5553)

2. Education:

- Increase school construction funding as required by *McCleary* (**Capital Budget**)
- Eliminate high stakes testing as a high school graduation requirement; reduce required testing to the minimum required by federal law
- Restore a fair and accessible nonprofit GED test (SB5676;HB1743)
- Significantly increase the state's share of higher education costs
- Support free tuition for two years of public college and technical school (**Budget**)

3. Election Reform:

- Support I-735 requesting the legislature to ask Congress to amend the U.S. Constitution to affirm that corporations are not people and money is not speech
- Require campaign disclosure of "dark money" spending by nonprofits (SB5153)
- Automatically register U.S. citizens to vote when they apply for a driver's license or ID

4. Environment:

- Support the introduction of a meaningful price on carbon in WA State
- Defend renewable energy standards & solar production initiatives

5. Labor:

- Raise the minimum wage statewide towards a goal of a living wage (HB 1355/SB5285)
- Provide paid sick leave for workers statewide (HB1356)
- Pass wage theft bills (e.g., HB1354/SB5569)

6. Housing and Human Services:

- Increase the social safety net, especially for homeless children and families
- Increase low-income housing in the capital budget
- Reform and effectively fund the public mental health delivery system with a focus on preventive and supportive services (study bill)
- Pass the Fair Tenant Screening Act—accurate, portable background checks (HB1257, SB5123)
- Disallow rental discrimination based on Sec. 8, government or other sources of income (HB1565, SB5378)
- Restore local authority over the ability to regulate rents

7. Criminal Justice:

- Pass criminal and juvenile justice reform, including Legal Financial Obligations (HB1390), Certificates of Restoration (HB1553), Ban the Box (HB1701) and Racial Impact Statements (SB5752)
- Re-institute parole and support ex-prisoner re-entry programs
- Pass a workable medical cannabis regulation that respects the needs of patients
- Repeal the death penalty (HB1739/SB5639)

8. Health Care:

- Pass the Reproductive Health Act
- Oppose parental notification requirements for reproductive health services (SB5289)
- Support health care for all Washingtonians by 2020 (HB 1025/SB 5132 and HB 1321/SB5305)