

# King County Democrats 2017 Legislative Agenda

## 1. Revenue & Tax Reform:

- Pass a capital gains tax and other progressive new revenue to fulfill the state's paramount duty to amply fund Basic Education in compliance with the *McCleary* decision (**Budget**)
- Close corporate & special interest tax exemptions that lack accountable performance objectives and results
- Oppose raising the state sales tax; repeal Tim Eyman's 1% lid on property tax increases
- Require Legislature to adopt a Tax Expenditure Budget as part of the biennial budget appropriation process
- Create an ongoing bipartisan Washington State Tax Structure Advisory Commission

## 2. Education:

- Increase school construction funding to lower class sizes (**Capital Budget**)
- Fully fund affordable access to higher education (**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
- Oppose any revenue-neutral "levy swap" until significant progressive revenue is raised
- Eliminate the school funding "levy cliff" so school districts can hire fall 2017 staff

## 3. Election Reform:

- Pass the Voting Rights Act
- Require campaign disclosure of "dark money" and "grey money"
- Automatically register U.S. citizens to vote when they apply for a WA driver's license or ID (opt out)
- Adequately Fund the Public Disclosure Commission; require lobbyists to file online

## 4. Environment:

- Support a meaningful price on carbon pollution in WA State based on economic and racial justice
- Defend renewable energy standards and solar production initiatives
- Oppose fossil fuel export facilities and improve fossil fuel transportation safety
- Support cleaning up Puget Sound waters and habitat, especially polluted runoff

## 5. Labor:

- Pass wage theft bills
- Strengthen Equal Pay Act and include pay equity provisions

## 6. Housing and Human Services:

- Increase the social safety net, especially mental health/substance abuse treatment services
- Increase homeless and low-income housing trust fund to \$200 million (**Capital Budget**)
- Disallow rental discrimination based on Sec. 8, government or other sources of income
- Restore local authority over ability to regulate rents

## 7. Criminal Justice:

- Address police lethal use of force by removing "malice" and "in good faith" criteria for prosecution
- Pass criminal and juvenile justice reform, including restorative justice, Legal Financial Obligations, Ban the Box on applications and Racial Impact Statements
- Create a civilian review board for all sentences over 15 years to decide if safe to return to the community
- Support earning state higher ed and vocational tech credentials in prisons
- Ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines; prevent unsafe child access to guns

## 8. Health Care:

- Pass the Reproductive Health Act
- Support Healthcare for All Washington by 2020 legislation
- Pass workable medical cannabis legislation that respects the needs of patients