

SUMMARY OF *PROPOSED* KING COUNTY 2016 PLATFORM

Agriculture: Farmers are stewards of the land that sustains us. We must preserve family farms, strengthen rural communities, ensure the availability of high-quality food, and maintain the viability of land and water.

Civil Rights and Human Rights: The rights guaranteed by our Constitution and international human rights law are central to our democracy and must not be compromised.

Corporate Power: Corporations are artificial entities, and not entitled to Constitutional protections as persons. We oppose the undue influence of corporations on our society, government and political process.

Economic Justice, Jobs, and Tax Fairness: A sustainable economy with strong communities requires living-wage jobs, tax fairness, opportunity, and shared prosperity for all.

Education: The backbone of our democracy is a free, universal public school system that produces informed, reasoning and thoughtful citizens. Our state is responsible for providing a high-quality education for all children, pre-K through grade 12, and affordable access for those who seek higher education.

Environment, Climate Change and Energy: A sustainable and thriving society requires vigorous environmental protections, sustainable ecosystems, and strong actions to combat climate change.

Foreign Policy: The United States should lead by example and work cooperatively within the international community to promote peace, cooperation, justice, and democracy.

Government and Political Reform: Government derives its legitimacy from the people, to whom it must be answerable; it serves as their instrument to achieve ends that the people could not achieve individually. Our representative democracy requires full participation by an informed citizenry; a voting process that is fair, transparent, and open to all; and public officials who are accountable to society.

Health Care: Health care is a basic human right. Government should work to improve our overall health, while assuring access to high-quality, affordable care for everyone.

Human Services: As a caring community, we must provide a safety net of social services that meets the basic needs of people, especially those on the margins of society, so they can attain their full potential.

Immigration: Immigrants strengthen America. All immigrants should be afforded full human rights, a fair, safe, and timely path to legal status, and an opportunity for full integration into our society.

Labor: A strong economy and nation depend on jobs that provide safe working conditions, fair and living wages, and benefits. All workers must have the right to organize and bargain collectively to determine their pay, benefits, and working conditions. "No one who works full-time should have to live in poverty." (President Barack Obama).

Law and the Justice System: The rule of law is a prerequisite for democracy. A good government provides for safety, security and justice for all, with care, fairness and respect for the individual.

Media Reform: An informed citizenry and persistently inquisitive independent media are essential for democracy to flourish.

Military and Veterans Affairs: We honor those who choose to answer our country's call to military service, and we insist on sufficient benefits and quality medical and mental health care for them at all times. We owe it to those who put their lives on the line, to deploy our military judiciously.

Transportation: Better public transportation promotes equal opportunity, enhances public health, reduces environmental impacts, and improves the quality of life for all.

Tribal Relations and Sovereignty: Tribal governments are sovereign nations and part of our national identity and community. They must be recognized as such and their treaty rights respected.

AGRICULTURE

Farmers are stewards of the land that sustains us. We must preserve family farms, strengthen rural communities, ensure the availability of high-quality food, and maintain the viability of land and water.

1. Crop diversity, conservation, and environmental efforts that preserve agricultural land and natural resources are critical to the viability of food, fuel, and forest production. Sustainable agriculture and forestry improve our environment, potentially mediate climate change, and provide local jobs.
2. A healthy population depends on organic production that reduces the use of herbicides, pesticides, and other toxic materials and eliminates hormones and non-therapeutic antibiotics from animal feed.
3. Clear food labeling is essential for consumers to make informed choices, including disclosure of where and how the food was produced, genetic modification, and components and additives in the soil in which it was grown.
4. Farmers who do not use genetically modified products should be protected from liability and economic losses resulting from the drift of genetically modified materials.
5. Local farmers' markets, which promote the nearby economy and reduce dependence on fossil fuels in the transport of foods, should be supported.
6. School lunch programs should use local foods whenever possible.
7. Renewable energy production on farms should be facilitated. We support sustainable and renewable energy production that reduces greenhouse gas emissions.
8. Inspections of both domestic and imported foods and livestock are necessary to ensure the quality of food.
9. Farm subsidies and other support programs should be aimed, not at large agribusinesses, but at keeping small local farms viable into the future.
10. Distribution of water must be equitable, sustainable and fair, based on sound science, to protect resources for future use.
11. Wild salmon must be protected from the impacts of factory fish farms and watershed pollution.
12. Habitat destruction and pesticide use responsible for the decline and collapse of pollinator species must be curtailed.

CIVIL RIGHTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The rights guaranteed by our Constitution and international human rights law are central to our democracy and must not be compromised.

1. All people have the right to food, water, housing, safety, health care, education and the dignity of work.
2. Discrimination is wrong. Laws must ensure that prejudice does not present a barrier to obtaining education, employment, promotion, housing, insurance, or any other social or economic good. Any member of a group impacted by such a barrier must be afforded the legal means and economic opportunity – including affirmative action – to overcome such injustice.
3. Freedom of religion and its separation from government are fundamental to our country's existence and must be upheld at all levels. Such freedom does not, however, include a right to impose the tenets or practices of one's own faith on others, or to infringe others' civil rights.
4. Privacy is a basic human right that government and business must recognize and respect. We assert the right of all to be free of unwarranted intrusion by government or other entities.
5. Provisions of the USAPATRIOT Act and Protect America Act that infringe on constitutional rights and freedoms must be repealed and habeas corpus fully restored. The abuse of civil rights by law enforcement agencies must end. We oppose pervasive and unconstitutional surveillance by any and all government agencies. Government surveillance shall not be conducted without prior independent judicial approval and the issuance of a warrant; FISA (Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act) court proceedings must involve some form of representation of the person(s) to be surveilled..
6. Persons accused of terrorism must be tried in civilian court in accordance with all constitutional rights of the accused. Indefinite detention must not be tolerated.
7. The right to reproductive choice, regardless of age or ability to pay, must be protected in the United States and abroad.
8. The rights of people with disabilities, including equal access to public accommodations, employment, transportation, telecommunications, voting, and government services, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act, must be monitored and enforced.
9. Equal rights in all areas must be extended to all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, including access to health care and public facilities for transgender persons, and their appropriate identification on legal documents.
10. Human trafficking is slavery and must be stopped.

CORPORATE POWER

Corporations are artificial entities, and not entitled to Constitutional protections as persons. We oppose the undue influence of corporations on our society, government and political process.

1. The U.S. Constitution must be amended to establish that a corporation or any other artificial entity is not a person with rights protected by the First Amendment.
2. Any corporate entity with holdings so extensive that its failure would cause major disruption of the national economy must be broken into smaller entities to ensure healthy, competitive markets and protect consumers.
3. Corporations, foreign or domestic, must not be allowed via any trade agreement or treaty (e.g., WTO, NAFTA, TPP or TTIP) to demand compensation of “lost profits” caused by laws and regulations meant to protect citizens’ well-being or to ensure safe, sustainable use of natural resources.
4. Civil and criminal penalties must be imposed on corporations that violate state or federal laws or regulations, and on the persons responsible for those practices. Such penalties must be sufficient to deter further violations and not subject to being treated as a cost of doing business.
5. Investment banking must be separated from retail banking, and both subjected to tighter regulation, transparency, and accountability.
6. Legislation must be enacted to prevent companies from avoiding U.S. taxes by moving their corporate headquarters to another jurisdiction for tax-avoidance purposes (“corporate inversion”), and government contracts should not be awarded to companies that employ any such tax-avoidance techniques.
7. Whistleblower laws must be strengthened and enforced, to provide active protection and restitution for any whistleblowers who lose their livelihoods.
8. Patent and copyright laws that give corporations undue control of intellectual property through unnecessarily long terms and other tactics should be reformed to protect competitive opportunity and encourage creativity by others. We support a strong, robust and vibrant public domain.
9. Organizations such as the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), dedicated primarily to drafting and promoting corporate-backed legislation, must be required to register as lobbying organizations and be denied tax-exempt status.
10. Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organizations (“NRSROs”), SEC-approved rating agencies such as Moody’s and Standard and Poor’s, must not be compensated by the companies that issue the financial products they rate. NRSROs must be assigned to rate new issues by a government agency and receive compensation from the investors who buy their financial products.
11. Financial institutions that manage money market funds or sell such off-balance-sheet investment vehicles as collateralized debt obligations, credit default swaps and repurchase agreements, must be subject to reasonable margin and collateral requirements along with public disclosure of the risks of such transactions.
12. Corporations must not be allowed to impose mandatory arbitration clauses in consumer and employment contracts. Consumers and employees must be able to choose how to resolve a dispute after it arises — whether in court or arbitration, individually or as a member of a class.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE, JOBS, AND TAX FAIRNESS

A sustainable economy with strong communities requires living-wage jobs, tax fairness, opportunity, and shared prosperity for all.

1. Our state must institute a more progressive tax system, implementing a fair and equitable tax structure including a capital gains tax, a high-earners personal income tax, a reduced sales tax on goods and services, and replacement of the Business & Occupation (B&O) tax with a 1% tax on corporate profits.
2. State taxes and other revenues must be set at a level sufficient to meet constitutional requirements and promote the general welfare. “Taxes, after all, are the dues we pay for the privileges of membership in an organized society” (President Franklin Delano Roosevelt).
3. Each business should pay its fair share of taxes. Each tax expenditure or exemption must produce a net benefit to taxpayers and must be adopted in a tax expenditure budget as part of the biennial budget appropriations process, meet measurable goals reported annually, and automatically expire every five years unless renewed.
4. A publicly owned State Bank of Washington should be established as the repository for state funds, to foster economic growth and jobs by participating in commercial and infrastructure loans and by making direct student and farm loans.
5. Any tax expenditure for a business that moves jobs out of state or offshore should be immediately reduced proportionately to the jobs lost, and the difference in tax benefits returned to the state.
6. Legislation must be enacted to prevent avoidance of U.S. taxes by “corporate inversion” (establishing an overseas headquarters) or comparable techniques.
7. We oppose any effort to repeal the federal estate tax, but protections for small farms and businesses should remain.
8. Capital gains, including carried interest from private equity and hedge funds, should be taxed as ordinary income.
9. Property taxes should be reformed to help low- and middle-income homeowners stay in their homes, and keep small businesses open.
10. The Earned Income Tax Credit should be maintained and fully funded to help the working poor, and the Alternative Minimum Tax indexed to inflation to protect the middle class.
11. Social Security should be preserved and strengthened, including:
 - a. removing the cap on income subject to Social Security;
 - b. insuring that the Social Security System is not privatized by instituting a voucher system or by any other method; and
 - c. excluding Social Security trust funds from federal budget calculations
12. The funds received into the Social Security trust fund should not be included in the federal budget calculations.
13. Small businesses create jobs and strengthen the middle class; government policy should foster them and promote new- technology and research industries.
14. A national service program should be established with the specific purpose of improving local infrastructure and creating living-wage jobs.

15. The federal government should return tax dollars to the states to improve our crumbling roads, bridges, dams, electrical grids and other public facilities.
16. Public services should not be privatized, downsized, outsourced or moved offshore.
17. Public and private pension systems should be regulated to protect the rights of pensioners.
18. Consumer protections should be expanded and strengthened by:
 - a. Capping interest at a 36% annual percentage rate (APR) on alternate financial services (including check cashing services, pawn loans, tax refund anticipation loans, rent-to-own arrangements, and auto title and payday loans), as it is for military families;
 - b. Using the Executive Branch authority under Dodd Frank to fund programs that assist low- and moderate-income citizens with small-dollar loans and help community banks defray the costs of those loans;
 - c. Modifying the principal or interest rates of mortgages that are underwater, to keep distressed homeowners in their homes;
 - d. Assuring that neither the approvals nor rates of auto or homeowners insurance are based on education, income or credit score; and
 - e. Enacting legislation to protect homeowners from faulty construction.
19. Student debt is limiting the economic future of our nation. We must reduce the burden of existing and future student loans by:
 - a. A "Pay It Forward" program that eliminates student debt in exchange for a modest percentage of income for 20 years;
 - b. Reducing or eliminating student debt in exchange for critically needed public service;
 - c. Limiting interest on student loans to 0.5% over the rate at which banks borrow from the Federal Reserve;
 - d. Allowing all student loans to be refinanced or discharged through bankruptcy.
20. The federal poverty level should be doubled, and indexed to inflation.
21. We must prioritize programs to reduce childhood poverty, which has lasting generational effects on families and unduly disadvantages children's development, health and future opportunities.
22. We support equal pay for equal work.

EDUCATION

The backbone of our democracy is a free, universal public school system that produces informed, reasoning and thoughtful citizens. Our state is responsible for providing a high-quality education for all children, pre-K through grade 12, and affordable access for those who seek higher education.

1. We support excellent public education, pre-school through university, with equal access for all.
2. To meet the state's constitutional requirement to amply fund Basic Education for all resident children, our legislature must implement a stable source of funding of public elementary and secondary education, to include:
 - a. Class sizes that enable optimal learning experiences;
 - b. Vital support specialists such as school nurses and counselors;
 - c. English language learning (ELL), special education, and accelerated and remedial programs to meet the needs of all students.
3. The first priority in spending is classroom instruction that includes comprehensive, effective curricula:
 - a. Research-based science taught at all levels;
 - b. Mathematics instruction including both arithmetic fluency and critical thinking skills, with proficiency measured according to international standards;
 - c. Civics, world history and cultures as part of social studies;
 - d. Opportunities to study foreign languages;
 - e. Music and arts as important components of school programs;
 - f. Vocational education in both middle and high school of sufficient rigor to prepare students for viable careers; and
 - g. Well-funded and well-staffed school libraries
4. Rigorous standards should be in place for all subject areas, with classroom-based assessments used to evaluate student progress.
5. Evaluation of school programs should avoid excessive testing that impinges on instructional time. Although well-designed standardized testing may be used in a limited diagnostic role to assess individual and aggregate student progress, such tests are not valid measures of teacher performance or effectiveness.
6. The existing charter school experiment and the "trigger" mechanism allowing charter school takeover of public school spaces should be immediately abolished. The state should expand funding and opportunities to develop alternative schools within the existing public school system. All publicly funded schools should be subject to full public accountability for student progress and fiscal responsibility.
7. Congress must fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA").
8. We support high-quality before- and after-school programs, and learning opportunities to address summer learning loss.
9. Dropout-prevention programs providing wraparound services for students at risk of dropping out should be funded in all districts.
10. Students should be free from commercial exploitation within the school system.
11. Updating of school infrastructure is essential, including technology and safety.
12. All high school graduates in Washington should have access to higher education, regardless of means. Public education should extend through community college and public vocational/technical schools.
13. Congress should eliminate policies that deny federal tuition aid to college students convicted of drug possession as juveniles.
14. Our state university system is a public asset that must be publicly funded for its multiple purposes, including education for thoughtful citizenship, research and creativity across the spectrum of human endeavor, as well as training for careers. Funding should be ample and competitive with that of other institutions of higher education across the nation. Increases in public higher education costs should be borne primarily by public funding rather than by students and their families. Need for student loans should be minimized and the loan system should not be privatized.
15. To attract and retain outstanding and professional teachers, the state must provide competitive salaries and benefits for all faculty and staff, pre-K through higher education.

- a. All public education employees, including part-time faculty, should be accorded professional development and professional advancement opportunities, and must have the right to organize, engage in collective bargaining, and strike, without fear of reprisal or replacement.
 - b. Teacher certification programs may credit relevant life experience in partial replacement for classroom study; we support robust apprenticeship and mentoring programs, with mentor-teacher compensation for training new teachers.
 - c. Basing merit pay on student test scores should be rejected, and collaborative processes for teachers and administrators should be emphasized.
 - d. Salary and benefits for part-time college instructors should be based on compensation levels for full-time professional staff, according to percentage of full-time equivalency.
 - e. Public pension systems should be fully funded and the value of the individual benefit maintained with a cost of living adjustment (COLA).
 - f. “Teach for America” candidates should not displace certificated teachers.
16. Schools must provide a safe environment, free of bullying and harassment, for all students, faculty and staff.
 17. School discipline should be results-oriented, rather than punitive. “Zero-tolerance” policies should be ended in favor of addressing incidents individually. Out-of-school suspensions are disruptive of education and feed the “schools-to-prison pipeline”; they should be ended in favor of in-school solutions. Police in schools detract from the learning environment.

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY

A sustainable and thriving society requires vigorous environmental protections, sustainable ecosystems, and strong action to combat climate change.

1. The global ecosystem, of which we are a part, must be protected and preserved. We must adapt our economy to sustain and protect natural systems. Environmental laws and regulations must be strengthened and vigorously enforced. We must work to eliminate the disproportionate effects of climate change and other environmental degradation on low income and minority communities.
2. We must address climate change immediately by limiting the global temperature rise to significantly less than 2°C, as committed to by the worldwide participants at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris. We must achieve a net-zero carbon emission economy by 2050, by:
 - a. Including analysis of greenhouse gas (GHG) production in all new infrastructure projects, including whether (and how) the project will support the goal of a net-zero carbon emission economy by 2050
 - b. Requiring that environmental impact statements consider the full scope of every proposal, including life cycle and supply chain analyses, and especially the long-term impacts of GHG emissions
 - c. Requiring executives at all levels of government to ensure that their department leverages the competencies of other departments and agencies to achieve integrated governmental action for long-term environmental sustainability
 - d. Supporting policies and financing for job retraining in the building trades to maintain an adequate workforce capable of building sustainable infrastructure
 - e. Supporting affordable, low-carbon transportation options such as fuel-efficient cars, reliable public transportation, biking, and walkable communities
 - f. Regulating and strictly limiting total CO₂ and other GHG emissions under Washington's Clean Air Act, while reducing allowable limits on release of already-listed pollutants on a schedule to progressively clean our air
 - g. Establishing and enforcing strong rules to prevent leaks and intentional flaring of natural gas (methane) from oil and gas facilities
 - h. Replacing our inefficient and vulnerable electrical transmission grid.
3. In order to achieve a net-zero carbon emission economy by 2050 while creating broadly shared prosperity in a green economy, we must generate all our energy from clean and renewable energy sources. To this end we must:
 - a. Surpass the target goals established by Washington Initiative 937 for generating electricity from renewable resources, by requiring that all future power production come from non-fossil fuel burning systems
 - b. Support continued development of and subsidies for distributed solar power and wind power, and support utility reform that promotes adoption of renewables
 - c. Support increased research and development for renewable energy technologies
 - d. Support policies and financing for job training in renewables production

- e. Strictly regulate the shipment of coal, oil and other fossil fuels through our communities, including requirements for improved safety, as well as liability insurance and taxes on the movement of such fuels to support funding for emergency response preparedness and clean-up activities
- f. Urge our Congressional delegation to support a price on carbon and repeal of tax breaks for fossil fuel companies
- g. Oppose new or expanded nuclear or fossil fuel infrastructure or extraction.

4. Our economic and environmental well-being requires managing population and growth intelligently, limiting urban sprawl, and preserving farmland, wildlife habitat, and natural resources. The State Environmental Policy Act and Growth Management Act should be maintained and strengthened. Developers should be required to pay impact fees to mitigate all the effects of growth, including increased need for schools, roads, parks, sewers, and open space.
5. Neighborhoods must be livable and affordable to people with a wide range of incomes. Among the essential targets for public investments in neighborhoods are transit, open space, urban forest protection, parks, playfields, sidewalks, schools, libraries and community centers. We must subsidize energy-efficient development and retrofits so that everyone can afford environmentally sustainable housing.
6. Public lands must be managed as a public trust and preserved for their environmental values as well as scenic beauty and majesty. We oppose resource exploration and development in state and national parks, wildlife refuges, and wilderness areas – places that are a critical part of our nation’s history and heritage. We urge our public officials to prioritize expanding protections for wild lands throughout the state and nation.
7. We support applying stringent environmental safeguards on the export of toxic waste, and reinstating the Superfund Tax to make polluters pay for despoiling the environment; we further support reducing, reusing, and recycling all residential and business waste, and creating viable markets for reusable and recycled materials.
8. State laws requiring cleanup of Hanford and protection of the Columbia River must be enforced before any more nuclear waste is stored there. We oppose any federal regulation that would reclassify high-level waste or allow its abandonment in-place.
9. Manufacturers must be held financially responsible for cleanup and disposal of products at the end of their useful lives, including disposal of unused or unsafe prescription drugs at no cost to the consumer.
10. The toxicity of chemicals must be assessed and publicly disclosed prior to their manufacture and release.
11. Water is a limited, vital resource. Government must protect the water supply by:
 - a. Equitable management of fresh water resources
 - b. Providing safe drinking water and effective wastewater management
 - c. Promoting water conservation
 - d. Banning privatization of the water supply.
12. It is the sovereign right of the people, and necessary to their well-being, to have their health, safety, and welfare protected by law. Government should make no law, rule, treaty, or agreement limiting the application or effect of national, state, or local laws or regulations that protect clean air, clean water, food safety, or worker safety.

FOREIGN POLICY

The United States should lead by example and work cooperatively within the international community to promote peace, cooperation, justice, and democracy.

1. Our government must ensure security while protecting our constitutional rights and the human rights of all. We must:
 - a. Demonstrate our commitment to peace, never initiating unprovoked war;
 - b. Work with other nations to eliminate terror networks and the threat of non-state actors such as ISIS/ISIL;
 - c. Emphasize diplomacy to resolve conflicts around the world, in cooperation with international institutions;
 - d. Continue to reduce U.S. military forces in Iraq and Afghanistan- with the least harm to the peoples of the region, while providing humanitarian relief, promoting stability and supporting the rebuilding of both countries;
 - e. Support human rights worldwide and promote adherence to international law, democratic institutions (including elections), health and safety, commerce, and cultural understanding;
 - f. Lead international efforts to prevent acts of genocide and protect refugees and other civilian populations;
 - g. Honor the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, ratify the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and sign and ratify the U.N. agreement that created the International Criminal Court;
 - h. Provide our fair share of effective foreign aid to reduce poverty and improve access to safe water and food, health, and education, and restore programs that promote family planning worldwide.
2. The United States must:
 - a. Accede to the 1997 treaty banning land mines;
 - b. Ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty;
 - c. Comply with the Geneva Conventions, the Biological and Chemical Weapons Conventions, and other international treaties protecting civilian populations;
 - d. Sign and comply with the Paris Agreement on climate change and further implement enforceable goals to reduce anthropogenic greenhouse emissions;
 - e. Continue efforts to reduce or eliminate nuclear arsenals worldwide, including strict enforcement of the “Iran deal” (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action); renounce US development of new nuclear weapons; and work for nuclear nonproliferation, arms reduction, and international control of fissile material.
3. Our government should not engage in efforts to destabilize other nations’ governments.
4. Our government should work to strengthen regulation of financial systems worldwide, to minimize economic disruption and avoid the destabilization and increased poverty resulting from unsustainable Developing Nation debt.
5. Existing international trade agreements should be renegotiated to incorporate -- and future international trade agreements must include -- human rights, labor rights, environmental and consumer protections, and worker safety, with basic democratic procedures at all levels; WTO and other economic treaty dispute-settlement processes must be made transparent.
6. The United States should use its full influence, through serious, constructive engagement, to promote negotiations and other actions that lead to a successful and sustainable resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, based on mutual recognition, that ensures security, economic growth, and quality of life for the peoples of the sovereign state of Israel and a sovereign state of Palestine.
7. End the Cuba embargo.

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL REFORM

Government derives its legitimacy from the people, to whom it must be answerable; it serves as their instrument to achieve ends that the people could not achieve individually. Our representative democracy requires full participation by an informed citizenry; a voting process that is fair, transparent, and open to all; and public officials who are accountable to society.

1. Government must levy fair taxes and enforce laws and regulations for the common good, providing essential services and safety for all.
2. The U. S. Constitution must be amended to establish that corporations shall not be considered as “persons” for purposes of political or religious activity, and to reverse the pernicious notion that the use of money is a form of protected speech.
3. To curtail the inordinate influence of money on the political process, campaign finance reform must be re-established, including contribution and spending limits, timely disclosure of the true sources of campaign funds for and against candidates and ballot measures, and a publicly searchable database of all registered lobbyists and lobbying expenditures.
4. Public financing should be available for election campaigns, to enable any qualified citizen to run for office regardless of his/her socio-economic status.
5. We call for public, broadcast debates among candidates for public office, and regarding ballot measures.
6. The U.S. President should be elected by popular vote, not an “electoral college.”
7. We support a federal legislative process that limits filibusters, ends anonymous holds on appointments and other dilatory tactics, and requires only a simple majority to invoke cloture.
8. Regulatory agencies should be adequately funded to fulfill their missions, without having their actions arbitrarily subjected to cost-benefit analyses.
9. Redistricting must be conducted in a fair and rational manner, independent of political influence.
10. To facilitate more widespread voter participation, vote-by-mail (with postage-free alternative deposit sites) should be the norm throughout the United States. We deplore, and demand an immediate end to, all tactics designed to suppress voter participation, including onerous voter-identification requirements.
11. Colleges and universities should routinely register students to vote.
12. Voting must be made realistically available to members of the military, and to other citizens located overseas.
13. To preserve the integrity of electoral processes, all votes should be cast on carefully monitored, secured, human-readable paper ballots, and the machines used to produce, tabulate, and manage election data must use open-source software. Mandatory auditing according to the protocols recommended by the American Statistical Association should be required for all jurisdictions.
14. We oppose the use of Presidential “signing statements” that purport to invalidate a portion of legislation being signed into law.
15. We oppose the privatization or outsourcing of any governmental service.
15. Transparency in government requires public access to government agencies and processes. We support increased funding for TVW.
16. Open-meeting laws must be adhered to at all levels, with genuine opportunities for public comment on policy proposals. In those rare cases where the public is excluded from sessions of federal or state legislative committees or regulatory body sessions, lobbyists must also be excluded.
17. The effectiveness of our state’s Public Records Act must be restored by drastically reducing its numerous exemptions.
18. Adequately funded nonmilitary public service opportunities should be available to young adults when they complete their secondary education or reach maturity.

HEALTH CARE

Health care is a basic human right. Government should work to improve our overall health, while assuring access to high-quality, affordable care for everyone.

1. We favor a single-payer system, to provide the most equitable and effective health care, serving both individual and public health needs at a cost we can afford.
2. Until a single-payer system is enacted nationally, our state should apply for a waiver under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to establish such a system for all Washington residents.
3. Health care coverage should be comprehensive, including outpatient and inpatient services; acute and long-term care; home care, palliative care, end-of-life counseling, and hospice; mental health care and substance-abuse programs; dental, vision and hearing services; preventive services; family planning with contraception and access to safe abortions; prescription drugs, medical supplies, durable medical equipment and medical technology; and rehabilitation.
4. Patients should have freedom of choice in their health care, including selecting a personal provider and a “medical home,” a team that provides coordinated care with continuity. Medical decisions should be patient-centered, made primarily among patients, their families and providers.
5. We support reducing health care costs in innovative ways that improve quality of care but do not cut effective benefits nor limit enrollment.
6. The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services should be empowered to negotiate prices for medical devices and drugs.
7. We support transparency in pricing of health care services.
8. FDA approval of new treatments should be based on solid data from reputable clinical trials that demonstrate both safety and effectiveness. The FDA should provide the funding necessary for researching and monitoring the safety of our food supply, and ensuring that drugs and medical devices are safe.
9. We support a strong public health system that promotes conditions leading to better health for the entire population, based on sound scientific principles and following recommendations made by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”).
10. Gun violence is a public health issue. Congress should lift the ban on, and fund, gun-violence research through the CDC and National Institutes of Health (“NIH”).
11. We support government education grants and student-debt forgiveness for primary care providers, in exchange for service to underserved populations.
12. We must expand funding of basic science and clinical research under the NIH, based on scientific merit, not a political agenda.
13. We adamantly oppose:
 - a. privatizing or rationing Medicare, or raising the age of Medicare eligibility;
 - b. over-diagnosis and over-treatment, which lead to poor quality care at increased cost to the system; and
 - c. direct-to-consumer advertising of prescription drugs and devices.

HUMAN SERVICES

As a caring community, we must provide a safety net of social services that meets the basic needs of people, especially those on the margins of society, so they can attain their full potential.

1. With poverty having increased despite the “end” of the recession, ensuring compassionate human services must be among the highest priorities of federal, state, and local government.
2. We support programs that reduce poverty, not just reduce the welfare rolls.
3. We must ensure that all people have access to safe, affordable housing. We support:
 - a. Low-income subsidized housing with supportive services for those who cannot work, especially those with mental illness (including chemical dependency).
 - b. Targeting affordable housing programs toward those who need them most.
 - c. Workforce housing programs, especially those targeting workers earning between minimum wage (approximately 30% of Area Median Income, “AMI”) and a living wage (60% of AMI).
 - d. Shelters as a transition to permanent housing.
 - e. The Housing First policy for homeless people who need a home in order to begin recovery.
 - f. The Rapid Rehousing policy for families who need help to maintain school and community ties while finding new homes.
4. We oppose subsidizing market-rate housing for those who earn 60% or more of AMI.
5. Farm workers and their families must have safe and adequate housing, sanitary facilities, and access to medical care and education.
6. Each person being released from a state institution should be assisted in preparing a plan for re-entry housing upon release.
7. We support restoring the Housing and Essential Needs stipend (state public assistance for people with disabilities) to safeguard the dignity and well-being of the vulnerable poor.
8. Quality affordable childcare, education, workforce training, and substance abuse treatment must be provided to help working parents leave welfare and poor people escape poverty.
9. Taxpayer-funded social services must not be conditioned on faith-based requirements.
10. Preventing child abuse and neglect must be a priority for our state. The foster care system must be restructured to protect the child, and adequately funded and administered. We support Gov. Inslee’s initiative to establish a separate Children’s Administration.
11. Adult Family Homes should be adequately regulated and funded.
12. Washington State must provide a long-term care program that provides in-home care alternatives to nursing homes and Medicaid, including respite for family care providers.
13. Services for people with developmental disabilities and their families should be strengthened and programs made more flexible. We should fund promised services, ending the waiting list.
14. The State should fund the Family and Medical Leave Act.

IMMIGRATION

Immigrants strengthen America. All immigrants should be afforded full human rights, a fair, safe, and timely path to legal status, and an opportunity for full integration into our society.

1. Our country needs comprehensive immigration reform that recognizes the basic human rights of immigrants and accords them due process in all proceedings.
2. Our country must treat immigrants fairly and humanely, keep families together and offer a fair path to legal status and eventual citizenship for those already living here. We should provide programs that offer instruction in English, interpretation and translation for government services and documents, and preparation for citizenship.
3. Immigration policies should integrate immigrants more fully into our communities for greater shared prosperity, opportunity, and higher living standards for all.
4. Our border control measures must be effective, yet consistent with individual liberties.
5. We should encourage lawful immigration by eliminating bias in quotas and by speeding timely processing of applications for entry, asylum, temporary work permits, and lawful permanent residence ("green cards").
6. Refugees are the most thoroughly vetted and exhaustively screened people coming to the United States. We must create a more efficient, just, and compassionate system for granting asylum, streamlining procedures for people fleeing from war, genocide, or political oppression.
7. Undocumented immigrant students who arrived in the United States as children, graduated from U.S. high schools, do not have a criminal record, and have been in this country for at least five years, should be given an opportunity to earn permanent residency and have access to higher education.
8. Local law enforcement should not be used as agents of federal immigration enforcement, nor should police agencies report or hold undocumented detainees for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). We oppose federal contracts that commit to filling beds at ICE detention centers.
9. We must support provisions to improve wages and working conditions of immigrant workers, to protect them from exploitation, and to protect American workers from being undercut by an undocumented and exploited workforce. We must enforce laws that penalize employers who knowingly employ undocumented immigrants.
10. We believe everyone has a right to health care and human services without discrimination based on immigration status.
11. The United States must work with other nations to improve the social, economic, and environmental conditions that stimulate uncontrolled immigration, using diplomacy and encouraging sustainable development.
12. Cultural diversity makes our country stronger; we oppose efforts to legislate English as our official language.
13. We oppose use of the term "illegal" to refer to any human being.

LABOR

A strong economy and nation depend on jobs that provide safe working conditions, fair and living wages, and benefits. All workers must have the right to organize and bargain collectively to establish decent pay, benefits, and working conditions. "No one who works full-time should have to live in poverty."
(President Barack Obama)

1. We support a Workers' Bill of Rights that includes:
 - a. A safe and healthy workplace;
 - b. Rights of association, assembly, and free speech;
 - c. Benefits including health care, retirement, and paid family leave for wage earners and their families;
 - d. Equal pay for comparable work for all workers;
 - e. Overtime pay for work in excess of 8 hours a day or 40 hours a week, and prohibition of involuntary overtime;
 - f. Due process, including protection for whistleblowers and collective bargaining activities;
 - g. A ban on mandatory meetings about unionizing, politics, or religion;
 - h. A work environment free from all forms of discrimination and harassment;
 - i. Prohibition of firing without cause;
 - j. Prohibition of reprisal against or permanent replacement of workers locked out or on strike;
 - k. Enforcement of laws that prevent employers from retaliating against workers who exercise their collective bargaining rights; and
 - l. Job training, education, and related services for employees whose jobs are outsourced, downgraded, or eliminated.
2. Jobs must pay at least a living wage. Toward that end, our state's minimum wage must be raised to \$13.50 an hour, and the federal minimum wage to above \$10 an hour, all with no exception for tips or benefits. Minimum wages should be automatically adjusted annually for inflation and also rise as productivity rises.
3. The union-restricting Taft-Hartley Act and so-called "Right to Work" laws should be repealed, as should any law that seeks to interfere with freely negotiated agreements between employers and unions to collect fees for providing collectively bargained benefits to union members.
4. Employers who force workers to work off-the-clock should be prosecuted.
5. Locked-out workers should receive full unemployment benefits.
6. Government funding should be available for retraining workers who are displaced, unemployed, or underemployed.
7. Official unemployment statistics should include persons who are underemployed or have given up looking for work, or whose benefits have been exhausted.
8. We oppose hiring policies that discriminate against unemployed applicants.
9. The National Labor Relations Board must be reformed to streamline the appeals process and institute meaningful penalties for employers found to have engaged in unfair labor practices, including obstruction of union elections.
10. Unions should be automatically recognized when they demonstrate majority status in a work group desiring collective bargaining rights.
11. H(1)(b) visas should only be used as intended, and not to replace comparably skilled U.S. workers. Applicable regulations should be strictly enforced.

LAW AND THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

The rule of law is a prerequisite for democracy. A good government provides for safety, security and justice for all, with care, fairness and respect for the individual.

1. Criminal justice should emphasize prevention, restorative justice and rehabilitation over incarceration alone.
2. Institutional racism in the criminal justice system must be eliminated.
3. Prisons should provide inmates with GED and post-secondary education, training, substance abuse and mental health treatment, and meaningful work.
4. Racial impact statements should be required for changes in state criminal justice policy.
5. Most people in prison will eventually be released. Re-integration of former prisoners into society should be supported.
 - a. Parole should be re-instituted and re-entry programs supported.
 - b. Legal Financial Obligations (LFO) should be revised to pay victim restitution first, and not assess court costs on indigent offenders, and, interest rates should be substantially reduced and suspended until the offender is released.
 - c. Certificates of Restoration of Opportunity should be issued to help rehabilitate the previously incarcerated person in the eyes of the community.
 - d. Employment and housing applications should not include a question on arrests or convictions (“Ban the Box”), although these questions may be part of an interview
6. Our nation must invest in children and work to abolish poverty in order to eliminate a major cause of crime. We must break the school-to-prison pipeline, beginning with abolishing school-based police officers and out-of-school suspensions and expulsions.
7. We must end the war on drugs; drug addiction is a public health problem not cured by incarceration.
 - a. We support data-driven drug education, better funded drug courts, timely treatment (i.e., treatment on demand), and community-based aftercare for offenders who need it.
 - b. The sale or possession of marijuana should be decriminalized nationwide, and banks. authorized to handle proceeds from marijuana sales in states where it has been legalized. The ban on medical marijuana research must be repealed, and such research funded by the NIH.
 - c. Convictions for possession of marijuana should be expunged and such prisoners immediately released.
 - d. Asset seizures should be based on court conviction rather than mere arrest or presumption of guilt.
8. The death penalty should be abolished.
9. We support humane treatment of all prisoners, including reduced use of solitary confinement.
10. Both mandatory and indeterminate sentencing should be ended
11. It’s time for the “Three Strikes” list to be abolished. Until that happens, nonviolent crime should be removed from the “Three Strikes” list.
12. No new prisons should be built, and operation of prisons should not be privatized or outsourced out of state.
13. We call for civilian review of police practices by municipal boards empowered to order corrective action to prevent abuses of police power, including racial profiling and violent treatment of suspects. We

oppose militarization of the police and demand restraint in their dealing with peaceful protests, with mandatory training of all officers on how to de-escalate potentially violent situations.

14. We oppose the requirement to prove “malice” in order to successfully prosecute killings by police.

15. Police and sheriff officers should be trained as “guardians” of the public, rather than as militarized “warriors.” Affirmative action in police and sheriffs’ hiring should continue until departments are as racially diverse as the communities they serve.

16. FBI funding to investigate white-collar crime should be restored, and those crimes prosecuted.

Sentencing should include incarceration commensurate with the damage to society.

17. Gun-sale background checks and waiting periods must be made sufficiently effective to keep guns out of the hands of felons and persons subject to restraining orders. Sellers of guns should be held liable for negligently selling guns to those who commit a violent crime. We support mandatory registration and licensing, together with safety training, safety locks and secure storage, and a total ban on automatic weapons and oversize ammo clips..

18. We call for DNA testing to free the innocent and convict the guilty, including testing of every rape kit within 90 days of its receipt.

MEDIA REFORM

An informed citizenry and persistently inquisitive independent media are essential for democracy to flourish.

1. The Federal Communications Commission should:
 - a. Reduce-concentration of media ownership; preserve and protect Internet neutrality, restore local programming, and encourage multicultural and minority-owned media;
 - b. Reinstate the Fairness Doctrine for broadcast media during election campaigns and make it applicable to cable networks, to promote greater balance in coverage; and
 - c. Allocate low-power broadcast frequencies to educational and non-profit institutions.
2. Public radio and public television should be accorded adequate, stable funding free of political pressure.
3. To equip the general public with the basic information it needs,
 - a. Time limits for responding to Freedom of Information Act requests must be strictly adhered to, and the Act funded;
 - b. Reporting from theaters of military action should be free of censorship, except as necessary to avoid revealing tactical information or endangering our troops;
 - c. Claims of “national security” and other questionable classifications must be subjected to prompt adjudication;
 - d. Journalists should be protected from unwarranted pressure to reveal their sources to outsiders; and
 - e. TVW should be made available statewide.
4. Companies should fairly compensate local governments for their use of public rights-of-way.

MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

We honor those who choose to answer our country's call to military service, and we insist on sufficient benefits and quality medical and mental health care for them at all times. We owe it to those who put their lives on the line, to deploy our military judiciously.

1. Our armed forces must remain under civilian control and be used only in accordance with the War Powers Act. Absent a declaration of war, National Guard personnel must not be activated for service outside the United States except for disaster relief.
2. Military service on our behalf should be performed only by men and women accountable to the public, the law, and the Uniform Code of Military Justice, not by contractors arguably exempt from some of those restrictions.
3. All military personnel must be instructed in their rights and responsibilities under the Geneva Conventions and be subject to vigorous prosecution for violations thereof or for other criminal conduct, including sexual assault or harassment based on gender or sexual orientation. Independent military prosecutors, not commanding officers, should control the investigation and prosecution of alleged sexual misconduct of any type.
4. The right of conscientious objection must be guaranteed, without fear of reprisal.
5. Breaks between overseas tours should be mandatory, as should strict time limits on each tour of duty in a combat zone, and on the total number of such tours.
6. Our military personnel and veterans must be accorded the very best in medical care. Mental health treatment, mental and physical rehabilitation, and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injuries must be fully funded. All partial-disability ratings and "bad paper" discharges since the start of the Iraq war should be eligible for review and correction.
7. U.S. employers need to recognize veterans' job skills including, but not limited to, mission-oriented determination and leadership, and they should make extra effort to find job opportunities for them.
8. Restraints must be placed on aggressive military recruiting in public schools, and opposing views must be afforded equal access.

TRANSPORTATION

Better public transportation promotes equal opportunity, enhances public health, reduces environmental impacts, and improves the quality of life for all.

1. Climate change, health effects, and environmental impacts including water and air pollution must be considered in all transportation planning decisions.
2. The priority for funding and implementing transportation facilities and services must be efficient movement of people and freight. Building more highway capacity will not solve congestion. We must:
 - a. Amend the 18th Amendment to the State Constitution to allow gasoline-tax proceeds to fund all modes of transportation, not just “highways”;
 - b. Provide public transportation choices that reduce dependence on the automobile, including funding of essential infrastructure projects and services;
 - c. Coordinate planning and implementation of transportation facilities and services across agency and jurisdictional boundaries, to most efficiently and cost-effectively meet the region’s transportation needs; and
 - d. Develop and implement a high-speed rail system linking major West Coast cities.
3. The ferry system is a critical part of the overall transportation system and must be adequately staffed and maintained.
4. Government must institute measures to reduce pollution and dependence on oil, including increased fuel efficiency standards and support for electric vehicles; revised zoning and building codes and housing policies; expanded transit service and more HOV lanes; and improved facilities for pedestrians, people in wheelchairs, and bicyclists.
5. Congestion pricing, including tolling and managed lanes, must be accompanied by provision of sufficient transportation infrastructure and services to allow reasonable alternatives to single-occupant vehicles. Transit, vanpools and carpools, however, should operate toll-free, and we must avoid disproportionate adverse effects on low-income and other disadvantaged populations.
6. We urge development and funding of a system of truck, rail, and transit rights of way to enhance our region’s economic competitiveness.
7. The capacity of current park-and-ride facilities in suburban King County should be expanded.
8. We support concentrating high-density housing, including both very-low income and market rate housing, within walking distance of transit stations and other urban centers.

TRIBAL RELATIONS AND SOVEREIGNTY

Tribal governments are sovereign nations and part of our national identity and community. They must be recognized as such and their treaty rights respected.

1. Local, state, and federal governments must respect the decisions of Native American nations and tribal governments, affirm their rights derived from treaties and state compacts, and oppose attempts to diminish their sovereignty and cultures.
2. The federal government must, in accordance with its treaty obligations, act to improve the social, economic, and health status of Native Americans.
3. Salmon runs and shellfish resources that are critical to Native American needs should be maintained and restored.
4. Sites of historic, cultural, and religious significance to Native Americans must be preserved and protected.
5. Federal recognition of the Duwamish tribe must be restored without delay.
6. We oppose the legacy of racism in sports and harmful Indian sports mascots.
7. We call for vigorous enforcement of the Violence Against Women Act on reservations, and adequate and accurate data regarding failure to prosecute such crimes.