

## State Representative and Senators

(Mary Ellen Biggerstaff)

### **1. If you are an incumbent, what legislation did you sponsor that you regard as a significant accomplishment?**

I am a first time candidate

### **2. What legislation should be enacted to combat climate change?**

A carbon tax and a Washington Green New Deal to transition to clean energy and a reduction in carbon emissions

### **3. In your opinion, is Washington's Apple Healthworking well? Are any changes needed?**

I am glad it exists for our population, but not much about our current health insurance system works well. I would like to see Universal, Single payer health care that eliminates private insurance companies. Patients with Apple health have too many barriers to getting needed care.

### **4. Do you believe that Washington should be a sanctuary state for undocumented immigrants?**

Yes, I would like for our hospitals and local law enforcements not working with ICE to deport immigrants.

### **5. Do you believe that women have a right to control their personal healthcare needs including contraception and abortion?**

Yes, abortion and contraception are basic health care systems.

### **6. Do you believe that laws should be passed to regulate sales or ownership of firearms?**

Yes, this is not part of my core platform, but I would support legislation for both.

### **7. How would you support the growth of small businesses in rural areas of the state?**

I work in a rural community, and access to small business loans would be incredibly helpful. Additionally, having health care not tied to employment would allow more rural entrepreneurship.

### **8. What do you believe needs to be done to improve public education in Washington?**

I would like to fully fund education for the state, and have funding be more equitable and less dependent upon the levy system. Additionally, I support efforts to remove the cap for disability services for students. Making sure schools across the state have adequate funding for what they need and

teachers are well paid would be my priorities.

**9. Do you support public funding of private schools?**

No.

**10. What programs do you support to help the homeless?**

We need to have increased investment in social housing to provide affordable housing for people in our communities. I support a housing first model.

**11. Washington has one of the most regressive state and local tax systems in the country. How should this be addressed?**

What is your opinion on a state capital gains and/or a state income tax?

From what I understand, the capital gains tax is the more feasible option given legal restrictions, but restructuring our tax system is crucial to reducing income inequality and investing in needed services.

**12. What is your position on replacing all or part of the gas tax with a road usage tax?**

I am concerned that this would not be an equitable solution, but I am open to learning more.

The candidate assumes full responsibility for all answers to this questionnaire. Your responses to this questionnaire should be considered public knowledge as we cannot assure confidentiality when making the questionnaire available to our membership.