

State Representative and Senators

1. If you are an incumbent, what legislation did you sponsor that you regard as a significant accomplishment? **N/A**
2. What legislation should be enacted to combat climate change? **Moving forward and away from fossil fuels should be the responsibility of our legislature in the coming years. Massive investments in sustainable energy and green technologies, such as solar and offshore wind, would be where I would start in terms of legislation. Additionally, no utility company should be allowed to increase their rates and bill their customers more when they aren't improving their grid by moving off of fossil fuels. We need a "green new deal" in both the way we generate electricity and in jobs and sustainability.**
3. In your opinion, is Washington's Apple Health working well? Are any changes needed? **Apple Health is our state's implementation of Medicaid, and as such, only available to seniors and those living below the federal poverty line. We as a nation need to move away from treating health care as a for-profit industry. Current state proposals which only serve to move Washington State into the for-profit health insurance business (while leaving the service providers to continue to raise their rates, hospitals to continue to be bought-out by investment firms, HMOs to continue to monopolize) will do nothing to guarantee care, and may only bankrupt our state. As a state, we need to expand Apple Health to cover more people and invest in public-funded care such as hospital districts and community clinics.**
4. Do you believe that Washington should be a sanctuary state for undocumented immigrants? **Yes. States becoming involved in federal law enforcement only opens taxpayers up to paying the bill for costly wrongful arrest lawsuits. Additionally, the fear that local law enforcement may deport someone only contributes to communities of color distrusting the police and failing to report things like domestic abuse and the other things our local law enforcement should be focused on. We shouldn't be investing as much as we do in our militarized police and overcrowded jails and courts, especially just for it to be spent doing the job of the federal government.**
5. Do you believe that women have a right to control their personal healthcare needs including contraception and abortion? **Yes, a woman's bodily autonomy includes the right to adequate contraception and abortion. I think the state should be offering women's health services through the creation of hospital districts and community health clinics.**
6. Do you believe that laws should be passed to regulate sales or ownership of firearms? **While obviously our society has a problem in terms of mass shootings and gun violence, we need to look at the 40% rate of domestic violence among police officers and the fact that, historically, gun control measures were aimed at disarming women and people of color. Over 60% of gun**

deaths are suicides (according to the CDC). That being said, it is very worrying when right-wing fringe groups can come to Olympia and terrorize our neighbors with a police escort while Natives peacefully protesting against fracking and sex trafficking of Native women are assaulted with tear gas and arrested for trespassing.

7. How would you support the growth of small businesses in rural areas of the state? While the 22nd is mostly centered around Olympia, small businesses across the state face the similar struggles: the cost of rent, access to services and the ability to compete with monopolies given unfair advantages like absurd sweetheart tax “incentives”. We can support our rural communities by making investments in broadband internet infrastructure. It’s how we connect in our century. We can fund this statewide project by having Amazon, Microsoft, and Boeing pay their taxes. I believe that can level the playing field from these monopolies while attracting sustainable businesses to the region.

8. What do you believe needs to be done to improve public education in Washington? Guaranteed equitable access to education. Right now, we are facing a pandemic where children aren’t able to safely attend school. Without access to the internet, there’s no way children can learn remotely. We need to fix this and ensure every child has broadband internet access and the tools necessary to succeed. Whether it is expanding early childcare or supplying laptops to underserved communities, we cannot let our children be forgotten in this crisis.

9. Do you support public funding of private schools? No.

10. What programs do you support to help the homeless? Housing as a human right, guaranteeing access to services (such as treatment, transportation, etc), as well as de-criminalizing camping outside. Survival is not a crime. Local ordinances need to abide by state and federal law; this means no evictions can be done unless there are reasonable accommodations being offered. Right now, Olympia and other cities do not follow the 9th circuit ruling on *Martin v. Boise*, and are closing down encampments without having sufficient shelter beds available. We should be building tiny house villages and public shelters, not ice rinks.

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? Our problem is rooted in the State’s Supreme Court’s previous interpretation of Amendment 14 of the State Constitution. Instead of allowing ourselves to be flattened into a regressive tax system by the “uniformity” clause. Changing the language of the 14th Amendment to replace the language “*a uniform and equal rate of assessment and taxation*” with “*a uniform and equitable rate of assessment and taxation*” would solve the problem for our state in the long term, and be a more honest assessment of the will of the voters.

Amendments aside, taxing corporations instead of throwing money at them while they ship jobs to other states and other countries is one way to solve our lack of cash to fund vital programs. A capital gains tax, income tax, and amendment to allow us to implement these equitably are all ways forward for us. The problem isn't just having the right solution, but having politicians that have the will to stand up and get it done.

12. What is your position on replacing all or part of the gas tax with a road usage tax? These sorts of taxes tend to affect working people the most, who depend on driving around more often. A better solution would be to make sure huge corporations are paying the taxes they're supposed to be paying.

Massive investments in mass transit (light rail, buses, etc) would also free up the roads and ease the wear and tear. Investments in public broadband would allow workers to work from home. Lots of things can be done other than taxing working people even more. We need to move to an economy without fossil fuels and we need to fund transportation infrastructure, but we need to do these things without having the burden be on working people.

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.