

State Representative and Senators

(Sam Hunt)

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

Vote by mail and on-line voter registration
Eliminating mercury from many products and mercury recycling
Washington Voting Rights Act
Protecting state employees from contracting out
COLAs for Plan I retirees

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

I have cosponsored most of Governor Inslee's major climate bills, including low carbon fuels, 100% clean energy, energy efficient buildings, electric vehicles, hybrid electric ferries and others. We need to enact carbon fuel standards and legislation to save Puget Sound, our lakes, and our rivers. I am proud to have a 100% lifetime score from the Washington Conservation voters.

3. In your opinion, is Washington's Apple Health working well? Are any changes needed?

Apple Health is working well, but it needs more. The current crisis reinforces our need for comprehensive national health care. We cannot continue to provide piecemeal health care that leaves many out and only partially insures others. American families spend an average of \$10,000 per person on health care, and that is ludicrous.

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

Yes! This is especially true with the despot we have in the White House.

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

Yes! I have a perfect voting record with Planned Parenthood of the Northwest and Hawaii and NARAL Pro-Choice Washington.

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

Yes. I have sponsored numerous bills to reduce gun violence and have an A+ rating from Washington's Alliance for Gun Responsibility.

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

These days that is a very difficult question given the gigantic struggles all small businesses in Washington are facing. We will have to focus on efforts—hopefully with federal help—to restore our small businesses to normal operations. It will not be easy, and it will not happen overnight. We face difficult times.

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

Obviously, the first thing is to get students back into our schools, and that will not happen until the fall. Districts need to focus on providing educational opportunities to all students during the remainder of the school year. That will not be easy with the disparity among families and communities. We obviously need to take major steps to increase access to technology in our schools.

Our state funding system is still not what it should be. Using the property tax as a major source of school funding continues inequities among districts. On top of that the regionalization factor pushed upon us by the Republicans further creates an uneven playing field. For instance, under this formula North Thurston receives an extra 6%, Olympia 4% and Tumwater 0%, based on their distance from Tacoma.

9. Do you support public funding of private schools?

No, and I do not support charter schools either.

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

The legislature put close to \$300 into housing and homeless programs this biennium. This does not include funding for health care and capital budget housing funds. Obviously, the homeless are hard hit by the pandemic and, unfortunately, will have others joining them. It will take a huge national effort to address this issue. Washington can do its part by providing financial assistance, housing, health care, etc. But it will not be enough. We need leadership from the federal government.

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?

Since my first campaign for the legislature, I have supported a state income tax and have sponsored several bills to implement one. I also support capital gains tax. What we need is a state income tax, reduction of the sales and property taxes, elimination of the business and occupation tax and implementation of a corporate income tax and a capital gains tax. Our economic uncertainty in these times reinforces the need for a balanced tax structure in Washington. I recently joined a group of legislators in signing onto an *amicus* brief to the State Supreme Court in support of Seattle's income tax proposal. Unfortunately, the court

recently declined to hear the case.

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

I am not sure. I do know that the gas tax no longer provides the revenues we need to support our transportation system. And the gas tax can, by constitution, only be used for roads and highways. With the recent adoption of Eyman's reductions in transportation funding initiative, we are in an even harder spot. Not serving on the Transportation Committee, this is an area where I will have to trust the experts to come up with a good solution.

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.