

PIERCE COUNTY DEMOCRATS 2018 PLATFORM

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Table of Contents

I.	Preamble	2
II.	Tribal Relations and Sovereignty	3
III.	Agriculture	4-5
IV.	Forestry, Fisheries and Aquaculture	5-6
V.	Arts, Culture and Parks	6
VI.	Civil and Human Rights	6-8
VII.	Corporate Power	8-9
VIII.	Economic Justice, Jobs and Tax Fairness	9-10
IX.	Education	10-12
X.	Energy, Environment and the Climate Crisis	12
XI.	Foreign Policy	12-13
XII.	Government and Political Reform	13-14
XIII.	Fair Elections and Census	14-15
XIV.	Health Care	15-16
XV.	Human Services	16
XVI.	Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid	16-17
XVII.	Immigration	17-18
XVIII.	Labor	18-19
XIX.	Law and the Justice System	19-21
XX.	Reduce Gun Violence	21
XXI.	Media Reform	22
XXII.	Veterans Affairs and Military	22-23
XXIII.	Sexual Harassment	24
XXIV.	Transportation	25

I. Preamble

As Democrats we respect the rights guaranteed by our Constitution that support:

- Economic Opportunity;
- Social and Civil Justice;
- Personal Freedom;
- Security;
- Privacy.

Our platform rests on the principles that there should be:

- Security for all citizens;
- Education, jobs and economic opportunity for all;
- Accessible and affordable healthcare for all Americans;
- Rebuilding of our reputation in the world as a cooperative and just country;
- Reversal of the erosion of civil liberties in our country;
- Recognition that diversity strengthens our nation;
- Recognition that we are responsible for our ethical, economic, environmental and educational legacy.

II. Tribal Relations and Sovereignty

We must maintain a lasting and respectful relationship with Tribal Nations and oppose all attempts to diminish tribal sovereignty, tribal culture natural resources, or the general welfare of tribes. We also recognize the growing Urban American Indian/Alaskan Native populations and that the Federal Trust responsibility expands beyond Tribal Reservation borders.

We call for:

- Recognizing that all Treaties signed under the authority of the United States should be the supreme law of the land;
- Protecting the constitutional and sovereign rights of Washington's Tribes, including a tribe's sovereign powers in protecting Native American sacred sites and grave sites;
- Eliminating and preventing the use of mascots by public educational institutions that are discriminatory or offensive to the Native American community;
- Upholding the Treaties, Executive Orders, Agreements, made between Tribal Nations and the Federal Government, which secured specific rights and privileges to sustain the future of Tribal Nations;
- Upholding the principles of Indian Self-Determination throughout State government;
- Elevating the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs to a Cabinet level agency with appropriate funding in order to properly respect the inherent sovereignty of Tribal Nations;
- Establishing and maintaining a meaningful government-to-government relationship with tribes that includes consulting with tribes prior to proposing or supporting legislation or policies that impact Tribal Nations;
- Recognizing the right of Tribal Nations to prosecute non-tribal members committing a crime on Tribal land;
- Addressing the achievement gap and disparities in education of Native students;
- Supporting and establishing internet access for all tribal communities;
- Increased appointment of tribal citizens to state boards and commissions in order to provide an equitable and fair representation in these policy- and decision-making entities;
- Funding cultural, health and mental health service organizations that advance the socio-economic conditions for on and off reservation tribal communities;
- Supporting the rights of tribes to regulate and manage their own environment and natural resources, including the right to hunt, fish and gather in their traditional usual and accustomed places;
- Fully engaging and including tribes in discussions and actions regarding climate change and water appropriation;
- Fully engaging and including tribes in state land management plans;
- Declaring the second Monday in October as "Indigenous Peoples Day" in Washington State.

III. Agriculture

Washington farmers are "stewards of the land". We support the production of renewable energy on farms and sustainable agriculture that preserves our land, waters, forests and natural resources.

We recognize the importance of agriculture as a primary business of Pierce County. Agriculture in Pierce County accounts for 90 + million dollars per year in revenue. We recognize that Pierce County farmland has shrunk greatly in recently years and yet the farms in our community are incredibly important for both our local economy and more importantly as local food security.

We believe:

That there are many issues that farmers face in our region that makes their work extraordinarily challenging:

- ❖ The onslaught of development puts a huge burden on farms to be the "sponge" to absorb
- ❖ water and runoff because asphalt does a very poor job. Because of rapid expansion of cities
- ❖ within Pierce County, many of the support systems for agriculture have disappeared forcing
- ❖ many of our local farmers to find the help they need in distant counties;
- ❖ Our farmers face difficulties in transporting equipment on our roads forcing them to move
- ❖ heavy equipment in dense traffic making it dangerous for all involved;
- ❖ Because of budget cuts, many programs that supported agriculture on the county level have
- ❖ dwindled drastically eliminating positions that provided much needed guidance and assistance
- ❖ for those who grow our food;
- ❖ We can do better for our farmers by pushing the county government to put agriculture back in
- ❖ the forefront to the benefit of all;
- ❖ We all can do more for our farmers by purchasing and supporting our local producers either at
- ❖ the farm-stand, farmers markets and by asking what's locally grown at local grocery stores or
- ❖ even at our local favorite restaurant. When we support our local farmers and help them
- ❖ economically thrive, we as a community are building resilience in our future and surviving any
- ❖ emerging needs in food supplies.

We call for:

- Collaboration with State and County Transportation agencies to explore the idea of replacing road ditches with shoulders that allow safe passage for our farm equipment and emergency vehicles;
- The clear labeling of food, including its national origin, and whether it contains genetically modified organisms;
- Adoption of sustainable agriculture protections including research into greenbelts and

- protections from development encroachment;
- Adequate funding of research and extension efforts which contain reports of, and preparation for, any of the anticipated adverse effects of climate change;
- Decisions about water available for agricultural enterprises and the small family farms based on sustainable sound scientific information including input from local agricultural based business;
- A living wage for agricultural workers, without consideration of whether they may be citizens or migrant workers;
- Reduction of the use of pesticides and herbicides especially as they may be leached into ground water aquifers, rivers, and lakes;
- Support and encouragement of vibrant and sustainable small farms, family farms and those farmers whose land borders are closer to urban areas, as well as programs that support establishment of permaculture, encourage bee production farms, hemp farming, and organic farms;
- Vigorous enforcement of antitrust laws that apply to agribusiness;
- A guest worker program for agriculture, ensuring a reliable labor source while extending application of minimum wage laws and legal protections to the workforce and employers with proactive enforcement of violating employers.

We Oppose:

- Privatization of any and all public water holdings;
- The selling of mineral rights without permission and due compensation for the property owner.

IV. Forestry, Fisheries and Aquaculture

We are the stewards of the land and water that sustain us and maintain the viability of land and water.

We call for:

- Adoption of sustainable aquaculture, fishery and forestry methods. Adequate funding of research and extension efforts which include the effects of climate change;
- Decisions about water resources based on sound, credible scientific and economic information, including local concerns;
- Protecting wild salmon and other native marine life;
- A living wage for aquaculture, fisheries and forestry workers, regardless of whether they are citizens, documented workers or undocumented workers;
- Strengthening the Washington State Growth Management Act and policies that preserve natural resources, along with robust rural infrastructure;
- Reduction of the use of pesticides and herbicides, and increased safeguards for workers who may be exposed to them;
- Monitoring the various use of drugs and chemicals by the aquaculture industry to ensure food safety and protect aquatic ecosystems. Aquaculture is a fast-growing food production sector;

- Vigorous enforcement of antitrust laws that apply to aquaculture, fisheries and forestry;
- Price supports for wild fisheries and forestry products to balance the negative impact of other nation's tariffs

We oppose:

- Privatization of any and all public water holdings.

V. Arts, Culture and Parks

Easy access and frequent exposure to the arts, to natural spaces, and to the elements that comprise all the world's diverse cultures, are essential for the enrichment, health and well-being of our greater society.

We call for:

- Libraries, performance art centers and museums to be well funded;
- Easy access and frequent exposure to public art events, performances, and exhibits for all communities in Washington;
- Arts and cultural education to be considered as a core subject in our K-12 public schools;
- A substantial commitment to public funding for the arts and arts education;
- Libraries, performing arts centers, and museums to be well-funded, accessible, and diverse in their offerings;
- Increased funding of Washington County, State and National Parks with a commitment to maintaining and improving natural space access for all Washington residents;
- Maintaining low-cost entrance fees to State and National Parks so that all may enjoy access to public lands.

We oppose:

- Privatization of our public lands;
- Mineral extraction in or adjacent to parks;
- Timber harvesting in National Parks and National Monuments.

VI. Civil and Human Rights

The basic dignity, essential equality and necessary equity of rights should be immediately made available, to all humans! The same civil liberties and rights that are extended to white men are to be equally extended to all citizens regardless of race and sex. The same civil liberties that white men benefit from are to be equal and inalienable of all human beings and are the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in our County and Party. We recognize that our County and Party have begun the struggle to acknowledge, address and solve the systemic, covert and structural forms of personal and institutional racism. Our region has woven throughout its political, economic, religious, policies, laws and cultural history, a blindness to the struggles of its people of color, and a minimization of their ability to exercise their full human rights. Our County and Party have not gone far enough with absolutism and this is a problem that persists in many forms to this day. While Democrats remain at the forefront of the

struggle to extend civil, political, economic, religious, and all legal and inherent rights to all persons, we hold dear the notion that more awareness, education and action is urgent.

We oppose all forms of discrimination in education, employment, housing, public accommodation, and access to health care based on race, ethnicity, religious belief or non-belief, age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation or disability whether mental or physical. We support the passage and conscientious enforcement of strong laws to prevent such discrimination. We support strong legislation to fund treatment programs and education designed to reduce harassment, intimidation and domestic or sexual violence.

We affirm that no crisis or calamity caused by a human act or an accident of nature justifies the denial or restriction of the civil rights of any resident of the United States. We oppose any law or practice that violates our constitutional right to privacy and to freedom from government surveillance, including interception of private electronic communications without a lawfully obtained warrant; any law restricting freedom of thought, opinion, peaceful assembly, and all unconstitutional provisions in the Patriot Act, including but not limited to indefinite detention, denial of access to legal counsel, and the denial of the writ of habeas corpus.

We support the constitutional principle of separation of Church and State and affirm the right of every person to choose their belief system, whether represented by an organized religion, a philosophy, or a personal code of ethics. While we affirm the right of religious entities to establish conditions for religious marriage within their dominations, we support granting all couples, regardless of gender, the right to marry. We oppose organized prayer in public schools and the use of public funds to pay for the "Faith-Based Initiatives" program.

We believe:

- That black lives do matter;
- We must identify, challenge, and eradicate the underlying conditions that give rise to the glaring inequalities around us;
- Voting is foundational to democracy and must be free and open;
- In the consistent application of constitutional checks and balances and oversight among the branches of our government;
- Privacy is a human right, our private lives and personal information must be protected from intrusion by government or others;
- Human rights include access to food, shelter, air, water, personal safety, health care, education, employment, legal aid and due process;
- Discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, military service, insurance, licensing or education based on age, race, ethnic origin, national origin, language, religion, sex, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, marital status, parenthood, disability, physical size, economic status, or political affiliation is wrong;
- Each person has the right to sovereignty over their own body;
- The right to marry, as a legal union of consenting adults, without regard to sexual orientation or gender-identity, should be preserved;

- The right of working people to unionize is a fundamental civil right;
- The right of an individual to practice their religion does not extend to the denial of the constitutional rights of others;
- In the separation of church and state, and that no entity has the right to impose its religious doctrine on others.

We call for:

- Honoring the rich diversity of society and making strong efforts to reflect that diversity in our Party;
- Making strong efforts to stand up, speak out and act to defend the rights of marginalized communities who face discrimination to be afforded the legal means and economic opportunities to overcome such injustice;
- Making strong efforts to stand up, speak and act to defend to the rights of marginalized communities, including individuals with disabilities, immigrants, people of color, the poor, and individual religious groups and of those who face discrimination to be afforded the legal means and economic opportunities to overcome such injustice;
- The right of all women to be free of men, government, corporate, or religious interference in their reproductive decisions, including contraception and abortion, and to have safe, legal, protected, affordable and accessible health care that enables them to make informed choices;
- Policies that will strengthen our country by affirming the value of all individuals, and by eliminating the systemic conditions that perpetuate inequality, oppression, and lack of equal access to opportunities;
- Strong legislation, treatment programs and education designed to eliminate racial injustices, reduce harassment, intimidation, domestic or sexual violence, gun violence, and bullying;
- Stronger enforcement of laws against human trafficking for ANY purpose.

VII. 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.

We call for:

- Amending the United States Constitution to firmly establish that corporations are not people and that money is not speech;
- Reinstatement of the Glass-Steagall Act which separated investment banking from commercial and retail banking to reduce bank's conflict of interest and subjecting both to tighter regulation, transparency, and accountability;
- Bnking reform to protect the consumers;
- Full enforcement of antitrust laws – any corporate entity with holdings so extensive that its failure would cause major disruptions of the national economy must be

- broken into smaller entities to ensure healthy, competitive markets and protect consumers;
- Governments to hold natural resources such as land, water, and timber in trust for citizens;
- Corporations must leave the lands, waters, and air in an environmentally sound, sustainable state;
- State legislators to take a firm stance when negotiating tax incentives with corporations, making explicit provisions sustained or increased levels of employment as well as environmental responsibility;
- Strengthening and enforcing laws against corporate crime;
- Multinational companies to pay their fair share of U.S. taxes;
- Increased oversight of companies vital to our environment, such as those in fossil fuel extraction.

We oppose:

- Attempts to weaken and underfund the powers of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau;
- Foreign ownership and management of our ports, highways, bridges, pipelines, and other infrastructure assets which are crucial to our national safety and security;
- Corporations exerting undue influence on our government through access to regulatory commissions and drafting congressional and state legislation.

VIII. Economic Justice, Jobs and Tax Fairness

Income inequality is the driving issue of our time. Making the wealthiest Americans and Wall Street pay their fair share in taxes would generate large amounts of new revenues that could be used to make necessary investments in infrastructure, education, manufacturing and the transition to a clean energy economy.

We call for:

- Policies that sustain an economically vital community;
- Fostering an entrepreneurial climate that drives innovation and creates opportunities for people to excel and prosper;
- Livable wage legislation;
- Equal opportunity and fairness for all;
- Establishment of a Washington State Investment Trust (i.e. a state bank);
- Enhancing Social Security so that no recipient lives in poverty;
- Economic justice on women’s issues such as living wages, pay equity, job discrimination, child care, and reproductive rights;
- Economic justice on parental issues such as living wages, job discrimination, child care, and paid family leave;
- Economic policies that specifically address and seek to abolish racial and ethnic disparities in wealth and income, including education, zoning, and lending;
- An incremental increase in the state and federal minimum wage, with a living wage as the goal;
- Expanding Washington State’s paid family leave program already in place to 26 weeks of paid

leave nationwide, regardless of size of company or length of employment, through a government-funded system akin to unemployment benefits;

- Eliminating the tax preference for capital gains and dividends;
- Restoring a robust estate tax;
- Ending the carried interest tax loophole for Wall Street investment managers;
- Financial Transactions Tax to discourage destabilizing high-volume trading and encourage long-term productive investment;
- Elimination of the tax benefit of sending jobs overseas;
- Tax reform that encourages manufacturing in the United States;
- Increase both market rate housing stock and affordable housing stock to mitigate rising home prices for Pierce County Residents;
- A progressive tax system at both the federal and state level, including taxing unearned income at the same rate as earned income;
- State tax reform that reduces the regressive nature of the current WA State tax system where the tax burden falls too much on the poor and middle class, the reform should include a shift from sales tax to an income tax;
- Eliminate trade deficits by renegotiating trade agreements or by replacing these agreements with trade policy, and if needed add by adding tariffs and implementing price support to protect vulnerable but crucial producers (such as farmers) from wild fluctuations in commodity prices.

We oppose:

- Taxing unemployment, worker compensation and Social Security benefits;
- Privatization of Social Security or reduction of benefits;
- Privatization, downsizing, outsourcing, and offshoring of public services;
- Excessive fees and excessive interest charged to consumers by short-term lending corporations;
- The use of credit scores for hiring and insurance rating;
- A territorial tax system that reduces U.S. taxation of overseas corporate profits, which would increase the tax incentive to send jobs overseas;
- Tax reform that taxes middle-class health benefits.

IX. Education

“It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provisions for the education of all children.” - The Washington State Constitution.

The backbone of our democracy is a free, universal public school system (pre-K through post-secondary), designed to educate informed, reasoning, and thoughtful persons who are critical-thinking lifelong learners prepared to participate in our civic society. We recognize the direct connection between individual educational attainment and the long-term economic sustainability of our society.

We call for:

- The Washington State Legislature to fulfill its constitutional duty to “make ample provisions

for the education of all children” as reaffirmed by the Washington State Supreme Court in the McCleary decision;

- Free access and full funding of public education, including all basic, gifted, vocational, technical, alternative, special education, English Language Learners, and other state/federal programs and mandates;
- Full funding of Head Start and Early Childhood Education and Assisted Programs;
- Funded resources for the educational and human services needs of specific populations, including students who are in foster care, homeless, migrants, or undocumented;
- School academic and behavioral health counselors, librarians, and nurses sufficient to serve the needs of every student;
- Inclusion of music, fine arts, environmental education, foreign language instruction, civics and physical education;
- A curriculum that is rigorous, comprehensive, developmentally appropriate and historically and scientifically accurate at all levels and that recognizes the cultural perspectives of children from diverse and indigenous communities;
- Instructional freedom that is student-centered within the curriculum;
- Full funding for the repair and maintenance of public schools for the health and safety of our children;
- Debt free education to extend through public college or university and vocational/technical schools and expand loan forgiveness programs for current and former students;
- Public education employees’ rights to organize, engage in collective bargaining, and strike without fear of reprisal or replacement;
- Education funding equity regardless of district tax base, with a new funding formula for public schools and capital projects;
- School food programs that ensure all students have access to nutritious meals and local foods that support healthy habits and classroom learning;
- Full funding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act;
- Critical thinking instruction to promote recognition of cognitive biases and logical fallacies;
- School service area lines to be drawn in such a way that racial and economic segregation of students is minimized;
- Public schools always have elected school boards;
- Democrats for Education Reform to stop using the party name Democrat in their official name.

We oppose:

- Charter schools and the trigger mechanism allowing charter school takeover of public school spaces. All public schools should be subject to full public accountability for student progress and fiscal responsibility;
- Vouchers;
- Linking military recruitment to educational funding;
- Organized prayer in public schools;
- The presence of guns in schools to include arming our teachers;
- National standardized performance testing;

- Basing teacher pay in whole or in part on student test scores;
- Suppression of unpopular research and research results, and curtailment of academic freedom;
- Military recruitment in schools

X. Energy, Environment and the Climate Crisis

The global climate crisis is an existential threat to our planet. We must unite to prevent the destruction of the environment, our communities, and our planet. We must proactively address climate change as a crisis. The struggle to protect our planet’s climate health must be seen as mutually dependent and interwoven with the struggles for racial and economic justice.

We call for:

- Action to minimize human caused climate change;
- A long term national energy policy with an emphasis on developing and implementing safe, clean alternative energy solutions and to encourage resource conservation;
- Strong environmental regulation of corporations
- Expanded energy conservation programs and incentives for consumers and businesses;
- Protecting our critical environmental areas;
- A carbon tax on fossil fuel use promoting the implementation of a price on carbon dioxide to impede fossil fuel consumption;
- A long term national energy policy with realistic and comprehensive planning, including legislation that promotes responsible fossil fuel extraction and waste disposal;
- Acceptance of the framework known as “just transition” to ensure ongoing employment for workers as the world shifts from fossil fuels to non-carbon-based economies;
- Higher density living areas that are designed to be mixed-use with mass transit systems that promote social, convenience, economic and environmental benefits. Higher density allows for beautiful public spaces, low car use and makes life convenient and enjoyable by providing many amenities within close proximity of each other. Increased density greatly reduces driving, traffic congestion and the amounts of air pollution that comes with it.

We oppose:

- Increased production of fossil fuels and natural minerals through destructive techniques such as, but not limited to, hydraulic fracturing and mountaintop removal, and offshore well-drilling for petroleum;
- Increased use of nuclear power.

XI. Foreign Policy

A well-functioning democratic republic is incompatible with foreign empire. Also, we recognize that protecting our own political rights and freedoms requires respecting the political rights and freedoms of all people.

We call for:

- We support affirming the responsibility of Congress to declare war under the War Powers Clause of the Constitution;
- The United States and United Nations to ban the use of military drones as a tool for bombing and killing in warfare;
- Exhausting all possible diplomatic means prior to the use of military force;
- A steady reduction in our nuclear arsenal;
- A negotiated end to nuclear weapons;
- A treaty to formally end the Korean War;
- Significant reductions in overseas deployment of US troops;
- Fixed end dates for all current and future Congressional actions authorizing the use of military force;
- Welcoming refugees whom our country's policies have displaced from their homes;
- The United States and United Nations to ban the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in weapons of war where upon AI, without the intervention of a human, attacks another person, combatant, building(s) or population center.

We oppose:

- Violations of human rights by anyone acting on the behalf of the United States;
- Military aid to countries that violate human rights, such as Saudi Arabia, Israel, and Turkey;
- Pre-emptive war;
- Military action taken without Congressional approval;
- Nuclear «first strike»;
- Endless wars;
- Military drones other than those used specifically to collect intelligence.

XII. 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.

We call for:

- Legislation to protect the integrity and transparency of federal elections by establishing disclosure requirements for all contributions;
- Reforming the system from frivolous Public Disclose Commissions claims that cause undue Burden;
- Restrictions on former state and federal elected officials from lobbying for five years after leaving office;
- All regulatory agencies to be adequately funded, staffed and fully accountable;
- Enactment of revenue measures by simple-majority votes in the Washington State Legislature,

- as specified in the State Constitution;
- Enforcement of sunshine laws and transparency in sessions that discuss and make public policy;
- Strict enforcement of the Freedom of Information Act and Open Meetings Act to ensure open and honest government;
- Enactment of revenue measures by simple-majority votes in the Washington State Legislature, as specified in the State Constitution;
- Public Utility Districts for potable water, sewage disposal, drainage management, roads, energy, and telecommunications that are to the maximum extent feasible.

We oppose:

- The privatization, outsourcing, or offshoring of any governmental public service;
- Governmental suppression, manipulation and distortion of scientific research and findings;
- Adding unrelated amendments to must-pass legislation without the knowledge of other legislators and the public;
- Efforts by the government and political parties to deny citizens their right to assemble peaceably in order to petition for a redress of grievances;
- Taxpayer funding for religious institutions or "faith-based" initiatives.

XIII. Fair Elections and Census

We call for:

- Encouraging standardized exit polls for all Federal and State-Wide races with results released after voting has ended. The purpose of the exit poll is to determine if the official recorded vote outcome seems accurate and was not manipulated for nefarious purposes to steal an election. Exit polls, where people leaving a polling place are asked how they voted, are the standard by which the U.S. State Department measures the honesty of foreign elections.
- Ending gerrymandering;
- Voter-marked paper ballot for every vote cast to ensure the election officials have analogue data they can use to confirm whether or not the electronic tallies produced by the voting system accurately reflected the intention of the voters and to detect possible election fraud or malfunction;
- Elimination of all forms of voter suppression for example, restrictive voter-ID laws;
- Public financing of elections to promote a more even playing field where all Americans can participate, thus empowering the people in the political process;
- Minimizing the influence of special interests and lobbyists on our political processes by instituting campaign finance reform;
- Full participation of all people in the 2020 census;
- "We support expanded use of Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) for single-winner and multi-winner districts, in order to end gerrymandering, reduce partisan polarization, create incentives for less negative campaigning and allow voters more freedom to vote for their favorite candidate by reducing the "spoiler effect".

We oppose:

- Computerized electronic voting equipment without an analogue paper trail;
- The Interstate Voter Registration Crosscheck Program which has been used to disproportionately purge young, black, Hispanic and Asian-American voters;
- Any practice that reveals election results while voting is still taking place;
- Any attempt to ask questions to eliminate people from participating in the census.

XIV. Health Care

Medicare is an Earned Benefit Insurance Program. As we are the richest country in the history of the world, we want our Washington State Representatives to support universal health care and a single payer for all. 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. Patients must have the right to access and choose between all lawful medical treatment options, without hindrance by institutions exercising religious doctrine. To protect individuals, as well as communities, Washington State and Pierce County should provide a distributed comprehensive continuum of public Mental Health Care. The public will have the freedom of choosing their providers and of knowing that universal health care is a benefit of living in the United States. People will have the freedom that comes from knowing they will not be bankrupted by an unforeseen medical condition.

We call for:

- An affordable universal single-payer system;
- Health care coverage to 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;
- Patients to have freedom of choice in their health care;
- Transparency in pricing of health care services;
- Health insurance programs to cover all forms of reproductive services and methods that are legal in Washington State, in accord with the principles of reproductive parity;
- Access to comprehensive women’s reproductive healthcare;
- Expanded funding of basic science and clinical research under the NIH, based on scientific merit;
- Early intervention and preventive services for mental health, continuing through medically appropriate crisis care and community reintegration services;
- Mental health care reform that improves the accessibility and availability of care for all and expands public awareness education and advocacy;
- Recognition that gun violence is a public health crisis causing injury and death, and for Congress to lift the ban on, and fund, gun-violence research through the CDC and National Institutes of Health.

We oppose:

- Denial of legal medical treatment or prescription purchase based on the personal religious beliefs of medical and/or pharmaceutical personnel;
- Mergers with religious health care institutions that result in directives restricting medical staff from providing the full range of health care options.

XV. 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.

We call for:

- An integrated, culturally competent, linguistically accessible human services network based on the needs of the individual, rather than the requirements of the service provider;
- Services to assure that homelessness is rare, brief and one-time, and that all people have access to safe affordable housing, including the Housing First policy for individuals with substance abuse issues or mental illness;
- Fully funding services for people with disabilities so they may reach their full potential;
- Taxpayer-funded social services that cannot be conditional on faith-based requirements;
- Restructuring and adequately funding the foster child system to ensure appropriate protection, oversight, and self-supporting adulthood;
- Improved oversight of elder care, including a long-term care system that provides in-home elder care alternatives to nursing homes;
- Adequately supporting programs that rehabilitate and reintegrate people experiencing substance abuse issues or mental illness, in addition to programs based on crisis and emergency response;
- Comprehensively addressing the opioid crisis by adequately funding programs that address prevention and rehabilitation, as well as crisis and emergency response;
- Congress to provide adequate low-income assistance, including but not limited to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, earned income tax credit, child tax credit, housing and child care – so children of low-income families can perform at grade level;
- We call for all people in Pierce County to have access to safe and affordable housing.

XVI. Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid

Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid is an earned benefit program supported by insurance payments from all participants paychecks.

We call for:

- Social Security Disability (SSD) reform toward streamlining benefits disbursement;
- Washington State Representatives to increase the strength of Social Security by lifting the gross taxable cap income;

- Social Security benefit payouts tied to inflation with increases calculated every two years;
- Washington State Representatives to support universal health care and an option of single payer for all with access to private insurance for those that want it;
- Healthcare for all without restrictions of any kind, to remove the fear and real threat of medical bankruptcy;
- Increased programs to alleviate the shortage of necessary medical personnel;
- Pharmaceutical prices to be competitively negotiated;
- Medicare for all.

We oppose:

- Any attempt to cut Social Security benefits or raise retirement age;
- Any attempt to privatize Social Security.

XVII. Immigration

We are a nation of diverse cultures. Immigrants strengthen the United States of America. All immigrants should be afforded full human rights and a fair, safe, and timely path to legal status or citizenship.

We call for:

- Urgent comprehensive reform of United States immigration policy;
- Protecting the integrity of our borders while recognizing the basic human rights of immigrants and protecting them with transparent due process in all proceedings and a clear and equitable pathway to documented status and citizenship if desired;
- Increasing family unification, including families of domestic partners and bi-national couples, by granting legal status with the same standards as spouses of citizens;
- Allowing undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children who have attained the age of majority to apply for U.S. citizenship without first being required to return to their country of origin;
- A more comprehensive “Dream Act” for young adults to enter a path of achievement that can lead to United States citizenship;
- Providing legal avenues for employers to hire an immigrant workforce, such as a guest worker program;
- Policies that fully integrate and support immigrants as equal members of our communities, including programs offering immigrants instruction in English, interpretative and translation services of governmental documents and services, and preparation for citizenship;
- An expeditious process to clear the immigration backlog and avoid lengthy detentions for adults and children;
- An end to deportation or detention of family members of natural-born U.S. citizens;
- An end to deportation or detention without due process of law;
- Streamlining and expediting procedures for granting asylum to persons fleeing from areas of war, genocide, and political oppression, subject to appropriate security concerns;
- Provisions to prevent discrimination in wages and working conditions for immigrant workers,

- including access to safe and adequate housing, medical care and educational opportunities;
- Using diplomacy and sustainable development to improve the social, economic and environmental conditions that contribute to undocumented immigration into the United States.

We oppose:

- The use of for-profit prisons by Immigration, Customs and Enforcements (ICE) used for the detention of immigrants;
- The use of the term “illegal” to refer to any human being;
- State or local police involvement in the enforcement of federal immigration laws;
- Border Patrol checkpoints away from the border and the engagement of Border Patrol agents in ordinary law enforcement activities, including providing routine translation services;
- Demands for immediate presentation of documents regarding one’s status in the United States;
- Efforts to deputize, commission, finance, or otherwise encourage vigilante border militia groups in the United States;
- Automatic detention and/or deportation of asylum-seekers;
- Legislative attempts to establish English as the sole official language of the United States;
- Unjust and arbitrary quotas, limits, and other immigration rules that have the primary purpose of preventing new immigration;
- The use of work visas, such as H(1)(b) and H(2)(a) visas, as a substitute for hiring U.S. citizens;
- Policies that exclude or demean immigrants based on religion or country of origin;
- The building of a physical wall along our southern border.

XVIII. Labor

A strong economy and nation depend on jobs that provide safe working conditions, fair and living wages, and benefits for all workers, with hourly wages indexed to the cost of living. Every worker must have the right to organize and bargain collectively to determine their pay, benefits, and working conditions. Organized labor is essential to the social, economic, and political health of our democracy.

We call for:

- Equal pay for equal work including veterans, women, people of color, people with disabilities and sexual minorities and other groups that historically have not received equal compensation for equivalent work;
- Competitive and commensurate wages for all workers, whether they are private sector, non-profit, or state and local government employees;
- Area standards for wages and benefits;
- Workers compensation managed and monitored by the state;
- Protection of overtime pay;
- A workers' bill of rights that applies to both private and public employers and includes rights of collective bargaining, assembly, association and free speech, due process, freedom from

- discrimination; and democracy within unions;
- Equal participation between labor and employers in the management of workers' pensions;
- Fully funding pension liabilities in both the private and public sectors;
- Establishment and enforcement of healthy workplace laws, including anti bullying and antiharassment laws;
- An incremental increase in the state and federal minimum wage, indexed to inflation;
- Full enforcement of current health and safety labor laws and prosecution of those employers that violate those laws;
- Rescinding the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of so that the postal service may return to fiscal soundness;
- Expanded and more effective "whistle blower" protection for all workers at all levels on all public and private jobs with access to courts and protection from retaliation;
- A policy that addresses climate change while protecting and growing jobs, and in creating infrastructure, clean energy and natural resource jobs;
- Creation of an oversight board with labor members and a just transition account which provides wage and benefit replacement and retraining for dislocated fossil fuel workers.

We oppose:

- "Right-to-work" and other anti-union legislation;
- Corporations using mergers and bankruptcy courts to appropriate workers' pensions;
- Using tips as part of a minimum wage calculation;
- Supplanting or displacing public employees with low-wage, low-benefit contract employees or prison labor;
- Public employee pension reductions by the legislature;
- Balancing the public budget with pension funds.

XIX. Law and the Justice System

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

We support the right of every person living in the U.S to equal justice under the Constitution and laws of the U.S. regardless of economic status, race, ethnicity, religious belief or non-belief, age, gender, sexual orientation, or disability whether mental or physical; emphasizing prevention as well as punishment of crime.

We call for:

- Comprehensive criminal justice reform rooted in a national commitment to identify, challenge, and eliminate the underlying conditions that give rise to the disproportionately negative treatment by our criminal justice system of people based on race and class;
- The elimination of all private prisons/correctional facilities;
- Public ownership, management and administration of all correctional facilities;
- Positive educational programs including activities for youth;

- Retraining programs that reduce recidivism and social conditions that contribute to criminality;
- Training for law enforcement and corrections officers that emphasize the sanctity of life and prioritize de-escalation techniques, implicit bias training, and how to serve more appropriately people with mental health issues so that officers are better prepared to address all situations in a safe and humane manner;
- Police forces to be demilitarized and held accountable for abusive practices and the improper use of deadly force;
- Efforts to improve community-police relations by exploring strategies to provide civilian oversight or review of situations where human and civil rights concerns arise regarding police practices;
 - Immediate and comprehensive action to end racial profiling and the disproportionately high imprisonment of people of color, and to reduce the U.S.'s overall incarceration rate, which is the highest in the world;
- Incarceration that prioritizes rehabilitation, with a focus on education and occupational training, over punitive measures such as solitary confinement;
- Providing all ex-offenders with the opportunity to re-enter and be productive members of society;
- Reinstating ex-offenders' voting rights;
- Restoring habeas corpus for citizens and non-citizens, completely and without compromise;
- Full funding of the Violence Against Women Act, services to crime victims, and programs to prevent sexual violence;
- Adequate punishments for white collar crime, including appropriate fines and jail time commensurate with the damage done to society;
- Equal sentencing for the same offence regardless of race and sex;
- The decriminalization nationwide of marijuana sales or possession;
- Convictions for possession of marijuana to be expunged and such prisoners immediately released;
- Asset seizures to be based on court conviction rather than mere arrest or presumption of guilt;
- Ending the privatization of prisons, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and juvenile detention facilities;
- Mandatory waiting periods on all gun sales;
- If a law officer uses the excuse "fear-for-life" as justification for shooting an unarmed person regardless of their stated reason, then the law officer should lose their position as an armed officer;
- Comprehensive gun-sale background checks that include criminal, mental health, and domestic violence checks;
- Provision of a skilled interpreter and immigration assistant and community advocacy representative prior to the signing of a document that affects immigration status;
- Providing adequate funding for Public Defender offices.

We oppose:

- The death penalty;
- Mandatory sentencing;
- Coerced labor for detainees and inmates, and the use of prison labor on any contract bid in the State of Washington that competes with private enterprise;
- “Stand Your Ground” laws that legalize shooting-first;
- The war on drugs, and the unequal enforcement of related policies that result in the disproportionate incarceration of people of color;
- Government collection of information on persons without their knowledge or permission, such as via drone technology, and collection of personal meta-data without a legal warrant;
- Racial or ethnic “profiling,” and strongly condemn law enforcement from targeting citizens based on race.

XX. Reduce Gun Violence

The rule of law is a prerequisite for a democratic civil society. A good government provides for the safety, security and justice for all, with care, fairness, and respect for each individual. Laws should protect all the lives of all people of our state, especially our school children, from gun violence.

We believe:

- The stringent enforcement of laws regulating the purchase, ownership, and safe handling of firearms, while respecting the rights of responsible gun owners;
- CDC to investigate the causes of gun violence.

We call for:

- Comprehensive gun-sale background checks: o including criminal, mental health, and domestic violence checks;
- Waiting periods, applicable to gun shows and other transactions;
- Mandatory registration and licensing;
- Raise the age requirement to 21 years of age for the purchase of fire arms; required safe gun storage;
- Safety training for all gun owners;
- A limit on volume buys of firearms by an individual;
- Total ban on assault style weapons and high capacity ammunition magazines;
- Enforcement of criminal negligence laws that hold adults responsible for safeguarding guns around children;
- CDC to investigate the causes of gun violence.
- Washington state schools to include in their curriculum scientifically and data-backed perspectives around gun violence and treatment of mental illness.

XXI. Media Reform

An informed citizenry and persistently inquisitive media are essential for democracy to flourish. The free flow of information is fundamental to democracy.

We call for:

- Efforts by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to promote community-level, non-profit and non-commercial radio and TV, local ownership and diversity of viewpoints, and reduce monopolization of media outlets, including ample funding for public broadcasting that is free of political pressure;
- Internet neutrality laws and policies, so that a few media companies will not have undue control over internet search results and internet content;
- Reinstatement of station ownership caps, which were repealed in 1996, to limit the number of television stations and news outlets one media conglomerate may own and operate;
- FCC enforcement of existing statutes that require disclosure of “true identity” of sponsors of political advertising, and reinstatement of the Fairness Doctrine for broadcast media and making it applicable to cable networks, to promote greater balance and transparency in coverage;
- Efforts to bring the U.S. up to world standards by providing affordable, high quality internet access for all in every region in the country;
- The FCC to reject outright the proposed merger of Sinclair Broadcast Group with Tribune Media Group and undo the Telecommunications Act of 1996;
- Develop protection policies that restrict social media platforms from distributing or allowing data mining of personal information;
- Expand federal law enforcement oversight of social media to combat the distribution of personal information.

We oppose:

- All unregulated social media platforms.

XXII. Veterans Affairs and Military

We pledge support of our troops and honor our veterans who act in the service of our country. The core task of the U.S. military is to provide for the common defense. Our military must be adequate to provide for our nation’s defense and should never be open to abuses of power by any branch of government.

We call for:

- Military service on our behalf to be performed only by individuals accountable to the public, the law, and the Uniform Code of Military Justice, not by contractors exempt from those restrictions;
- Removing chain-of-command from investigating and prosecuting criminal offenses including sexual assault;

- Funding of the Veterans Administration to be increased to provide the care promised to our veterans. The funding shall include improvement to facilities for care throughout the nation;
- Funding will also be for the expansion of F. Edward Hebert Armed Forces Professions Scholarship Program to include the Veterans Health Administration;
- Troops to be accorded mandatory breaks between overseas tours, strict time limits on each tour of duty in a combat zone, and strict limits on the total number of combat tours;
- Enforcement of the Geneva Conventions, through all levels of command, in the treatment of all prisoners of war, enemy combatants, and detainees regardless of the location of their incarceration, and the cessation of using so-called “enhanced interrogation techniques”;
- Fully funding VA services, and increased funding for long-term care and treatment of veterans at military medical facilities;
- Active outreach to provide access to housing and services for homeless vets;
- Providing our troops with improved transitional assistance programs to make coming home from deployment and transitioning into civilian life easier;
- Female military personnel and all others who rely on Tricare and military medical facilities should have the right to make their own reproductive decisions;
- Reducing the backlog of Veteran Affairs claims;
- Veterans who receive less than honorable discharge due to mental health issues be automatically evaluated for honorable discharge;
- For veterans who were involuntarily discharged due to sexual orientation, them having that discharge automatically upgraded to honorable;
- Those who began their service as documented or undocumented being afforded an immediate pathway to citizenship consistent with their service;
- We support increased funding for Veterans Health Administration obligations to provide for the care and benefit promised to our veterans;
- Gradual and responsible reduction of DOD budget and reallocation of those cutbacks to domestic Federal programs.

We oppose:

- Privatization of Veterans health care services;
- Using our military resources for preemptive war;
- Distribution of surplus military equipment to law enforcement;
- We oppose the training of foreign military and police forces that suppress human rights in their own country.

XXIII. Sexual Harassment

All people including those participating in political activity deserve an environment that is safe from sexual harassment. An environment that is safe from sexual harassment ensures a more democratic and engaged populace. We do not support any political party's endorsement or financial contributions for individuals who have engaged in sexual harassment or inappropriate sexual behavior.

We call for:

- Recognizing the following conduct as inappropriate:
 - ❖ Sexual harassment, including the offering of opportunities or advancement in return for sexual activity, dating, or other personal favors;
 - ❖ Sexual jokes, innuendos, or personal comments that create discomfort for any person;
 - ❖ Physical contact (hugging, stroking, patting, massaging, etc.) initiated by a person to a subordinate or other person who has less power or influence in employment;
 - ❖ Unwanted attention, which includes phone calls, texts, invitations and propositions initiated by a person to a subordinate or other person who has less power or influence in employment;
 - ❖ Retaliation or threats of retaliation to people who make complaints of sexual harassment or inappropriate conduct.
- State standards and clear guidelines for reporting and investigating complaints of sexual harassment and inappropriate sexual conduct;
- Legislation that would end non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) in the settlement of sexual harassment lawsuits in the workplace: these agreements silence the victims, and ending NDAs would move the workplace towards openness and accountability of companies and their workforce.
- Believing and supporting those who complain of sexual harassment and inappropriate sexual conduct;
- Revoking or rescinding political endorsements and financial support of individuals who are found to have engaged in sexual harassment or inappropriate conduct;
- Individuals who are in positions of influence and authority over others to counsel individuals regarding their personal conduct and avoidance of sexual harassment and inappropriate sexual conduct, to reprimand individuals who have engaged in sexual harassment and inappropriate sexual conduct;
- Stronger legislation to protect individuals from sexual harassment and inappropriate sexual conduct, especially those individuals who may have less power or influence in employment or party settings;
- Creating environments where people can live without fear of inappropriate conduct or retaliation.

We oppose:

- All sexual harassment and inappropriate sexual conduct;
- Blaming or belittling those who complain of sexual harassment and inappropriate sexual conduct;
- Endorsing or supporting those who have engaged in sexual harassment or inappropriate sexual conduct.

XXIV. Transportation

We believe that an efficient, well-planned, inclusive multimodal transportation system promotes a healthy economy, environment, and community.

We call for:

- Significant inclusion of public input and oversight with transparency into major transportation public works;
- Expanding and enhancing accessible, safe, affordable and efficient public transportation, including bus, rapid transit and light rail;
- Investments in public infrastructure that broaden individuals' multimodal transportation choices;
- Washington's executive agencies and Legislature to adopt policies and laws in collaboration with Pierce County public input to minimize public safety dangers to our state caused by transportation of fossil fuels and other hazardous materials;
- Governments to invest in continued local input and access to needed transportation infrastructure, including joint collaboration with Pierce County for future planning for expansion of rural and farm land roads, highway maintenance and improvement, ensuring that consideration be given to those cities and counties outside of the I-5 and I-90 corridor;
- Consideration of climate change, health effects, and environmental impacts including water, earth and air pollution in all transportation including expansion of lanes and road planning.

We oppose:

- Transportation infrastructure privatization.