

# Washington's Paramount Duty Candidate Questionnaire - 2018

Washington's Paramount Duty is a group of parents, teachers, and community members who fight to ensure our state's public schools are fully and equitably funded. We are asking all candidates for the state legislature in 2018, regardless of party, to respond to the following questionnaire. These responses will be made public and shared with our more than 7,000 members across the state.

There are 12 short questions below. You must give an answer for the questions themselves, and following each question is space for you to expand on your yes/no/maybe answers should you wish to do so. We will publish those additional comments along with your answers to the questions themselves.

Email address \*

crthobaben@gmail.com

Candidate Name

1) Do you believe our public schools are amply funded right now, as is required by the state constitution? \*

Yes

No

Maybe (explain below)

## (Additional comments for question 1)

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2) Will you vote for new, progressive revenues to sustainably fund our public schools? \*

- Yes
- No
- Maybe (explain below)

## (Additional comments for question 2)

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3) Will you vote for these specific revenues? \*

- Capital gains tax
- Closing corporate tax loopholes
- Other: .....

## (Additional comments for question 3)

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4) Will you vote to prevent \$1.1 billion in school cuts caused by the January 1, 2019 levy cliff? \*

- Yes
- No
- Maybe (explain below)

(Additional comments for question 4)

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5) Will you vote to change the 2017 education funding deal (HB 2242) and add more funding to eliminate inequities between districts as well as ensure districts have the money they actually need to give every child a great education? \*

- Yes
- No
- Maybe (explain below)

(Additional comments for question 5)

We have several challenges ahead but I think we must not simply address the spending shortfalls, but re-evaluate the prototypical school model and its relevance given the increased reliance that communities have on their schools to deliver more and more services.

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6) Will you vote to fully implement Initiative 1351, which creates smaller class sizes and increases in counselors, nurses, teaching assistants, librarians, and social workers, and in particular, with additional class-size reductions and staffing increases in high-poverty schools? More info:

<http://leg.wa.gov/House/Committees/OPRGeneral/Documents/2014/I-1351Summary.pdf> \*

- Yes
- No
- Maybe (explain below)

(Additional comments for question 6)

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7) An OSPI survey of school districts found state funding for special education remains more than \$100 million short after the 2018 legislative session. Will you vote to fully fund special education? \*

- Yes
- No
- Maybe (explain below)

(Additional comments for question 7)

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8) Would you support financial incentives to reduce school segregation (racial and economic)? \*

- Yes (explain below what incentives you would support)
- No
- Maybe (explain below)

(Additional comments for question 8)

School segregation is more a symptom of socioeconomic pressures and neighborhood preference than any function of school funding. I believe that it is extremely important for diverse communities in the education of our youth, but I do not see this as a school funding issue.

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9) Do you support a simple majority for school bonds and school levies? \*

- Yes
- No
- Maybe (explain below)

(Additional comments for question 9)

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10) Do you support school vouchers or other programs that allow public funding to follow a student to a private and/or charter school? \*

- Yes
- No
- Maybe (explain below)

(Additional comments for question 10)

I believe there is a Pre-K opportunity for charter schools, but no evidence exists at the High School or Junior high level that it provides statistical value. Minority schools do benefit, but more because of accelerated attrition than performance.

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11) Will you vote against giving public money to charter schools or programs housed within charter schools? \*

- Yes
- No
- Maybe (explain below)

(Additional comments for question 11)

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12) Will you vote to raise the cap on allowable charter schools? \*

- Yes
- No
- Maybe (explain below)

(Additional comments for question 12)

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Anything else you want to add about fully funding public education in Washington State?

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Thank you for filling out this questionnaire! Washington's Paramount Duty will let you know when we will be publishing these responses. Questions? Please email us at [info@paramountduty.org](mailto:info@paramountduty.org).

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