

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 *

votechrstracy@frontier.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)

Likely meets the Supreme Court mandate and they determine legally the funding, but many details in the McCleary funding need to be clarified by the legislature in the next session. More funding for high poverty schools, special education and ELL may be needed. Unfortunately the K-12 class size initiative that was passed years ago has only been funded for K-3, and not 4-12. So technically likely meeting the state constitution, but total funding is not fully complete.

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

- Yes
- No
- Maybe (explain below)

(Additional comments for question 2)

I also support finding efficiencies in state government as a source for funding.

3) Will you vote for these specific revenues? *

- Capital gains tax
- Closing corporate tax loopholes
- Other: Slightly lower B&O tax, but close many of the exemptions.
-

(Additional comments for question 3)

I support a capital gains tax, EXCLUDING all retirement accounts and the sale of one's primary residence.

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)

Subject to identifying new funds to support this. (For example, I will not reallocate funds that currently support other human services to fund this.) There may be some ways to modify or provide clarification in the McCleary funding pieces that will reduce the shortfall.

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)

Likely, yes, subject to identification of new funding sources.

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)

This may need to be phased in over time due to the cost.

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)

Subject to verification of the survey results.

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)

Not exactly sure what you are advocating and would need more information before making a decision.

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

- Yes
- No
- Maybe (explain below)

(Additional comments for question 9)

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 do not support expanding charter schools until public schools are fully funded.

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)

I do not support expanding charter schools until public schools are fully funded.

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

- Yes
- No
- Maybe (explain below)

(Additional comments for question 12)

Already addressed in the initiative that passed. I do not support expanding that number.

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

I am a retired public school teacher and advocate for public schools.--Christopher Tracy, Candidate, State Representative, District 8, Position 2, Democrat. For more information please visit: www.votechristophertracy.com

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.

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