

# 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 \*

jamie@peopleforpedersen.org

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)

Even though the Supreme Court has blessed the legislature's education funding plan, I find the plan inadequate in several ways, including inadequate funding for special education; unsustainability of the revenue stream; and defects in the prototypical school model (such as inadequate nurses and counselors).

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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)

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)

The 2018 revenue peak was a known consequence of accelerating state funding for teacher salaries by a year, as required by the Supreme Court. I support adding money for paying the true costs of special ed, etc. – but that is unlikely to replace all of the previous local levy money with new state money.

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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)

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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)

I strongly support the class size reductions for K-3. I think that the evidence is not very good for funding class size reductions in upper grades, which is why I opposed the initiative. For the same money, I think we could make better and more targeted investments in public schools.

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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)

I'm not sure what this means. A return to large-scale bussing?

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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)

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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)

I opposed the charter school initiative and have participated in the litigation to have it struck down. That said, though, there are thousands of kids in the existing schools. By law, the per-student funding from the state follows them. Unless the Supreme Court invalidates the initiative, I will continue to support allocating money to those schools.

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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)

I think we need more data and experience with the existing schools -- and a decision from the Supreme Court -- before we decide whether to expand the system.

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

Don't forget about school construction funding; we need to invest there as well.

I'm working hard on reforming the school construction assistance program to make it more robust and fairer.

Thanks for your advocacy!

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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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