

# 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 \*

jessa@electjessalewis.com

Candidate Name

Jessa Lewis

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)

I have concerns with the sustainability and the regressive nature of the current funding structure, the funding going towards ineffective standardized testing and top heavy administration, and the inequity between districts. We can do better.

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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)

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)

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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)

Funding should not be tied to local tax capacity, and success shouldn't be determined by zip code. Education is the great equalizer.

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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)

Also support local communities having the option to have capacity to reduce levy rates for retirees if they choose.

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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 have had a few meetings with parents who have struggled with special needs kids getting the right attention in public schools, and who have benefitted in charters. I want to ensure ALL students get what they need in public 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)

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

It's one of my top three priorities. My daughter and I have testified on this in Olympia and you can count on me.

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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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