

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 *

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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)

We need data from districts detailing any unfunded basic ed costs in order to separate fact from fiction. we must start with verified data and analysis. We do know that special ed is underfunded. We suspect that current formulas do not pay full costs. We suspect that regionalization of pay, staff mix and levy caps result in unequal funding. We need to examine these areas.

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

- Yes
- No
- Maybe (explain below)

(Additional comments for question 2)

What I will support is legislation supporting the creation of a tax expenditure budget with the goal of better understanding the impact of 650+ tax preferences and loopholes to determine which pay taxpayers back and advance our policy goals. I favor eliminating preferences that are not paying taxpayers back, not advancing policy goals, and not strengthening our state. Right now, the state is saying no thanks to billions in potential revenues while saying yes to loopholes with little oversight and accountability. Thankfully, this effort to enact tax expenditure budgeting appears to have bipartisan support. I am hopeful a bill will be ready for the governor's signature in 2019.

3) Will you vote for these specific revenues? *

Capital gains tax

Closing corporate tax loopholes

Other:

(Additional comments for question 3)

Preferences that are not paying taxpayers back need to be modified to help achieve policy objectives or ended.
.....

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)

Details matter. We need to understand the facts surrounding the recent reforms and district-level impacts. There is evidence that shortfalls exist in special education and there may well be other areas. We need accurate data and analysis and then the courage to have bi-partisan discussions to address needs.
.....

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)

I expect to have robust conversations about the real impacts of HB2242 - focused on evidence and data. The concerns that reforms have exacerbated inequities are real and the Legislature needs to have a collective open-mind to the facts and a willingness to debate solutions.

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)

These are important elements for student success. I support each piece. We need to understand what we can afford and what the trade offs will be concerning other areas of the budget.

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)

By law, we must provide services. By law, that money cannot come from local excess levies.

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)

This is a new topic for me. I am open to learning more. In my own district, we created Opportunity Zones to address specific areas of concern and reallocated funds among schools with the support of principals and the community.

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 support public school programs of choice, magnet schools, online programs and individualized education that meets students where they are and helps them make progress. I support current law with regard to public charter schools.

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 will vote against giving public monies to private schools. I support public charter schools as approved by the people of this state.

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

- Yes
- No
- Maybe (explain below)

(Additional comments for question 12)

At this time, I am not aware that the cap needs to be raised.

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

Fully funded K-12 basic education is the promise our state makes to all children. We need to gather and analyze the data to understand if we are keeping that promise and have the courage to address the facts as we find them. We also need to ensure that the monies spent are delivering the results our students need to be successful. Persistent gaps in achievement indicate we are falling short of our goals and we must address that.

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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