

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 *

larry@larryspringer.org

Candidate Name

Larry Springer

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 have largely met our McCleary obligation but more work is needed regarding levy lid caps, special ed funding, and a substantial increase in school construction funding

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

- Yes
- No
- Maybe (explain below)

(Additional comments for question 2)

We have an entirely new budget to write so I will make no promises at this point

3) Will you vote for these specific revenues? *

- Capital gains tax
- Closing corporate tax loopholes
- Other: reformed B&O tax structure
-

(Additional comments for question 3)

Tax exemptions, preferential rates, and deferments are not "loopholes"
They are intentional for specific purposes, calling them loopholes implies corporations are getting away with something which tends to vilify businesses for simply doing what is legal, all exemptions should be periodically reviewed which is what the legislature is currently undertaking

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)

same as question 2

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)

2242 needs to be revisited but what changes are needed remains to be seen, the degree to which there obvious inequities between districts we should deal with that

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)

see question 2

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)

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 concept to me, will need to think more about it

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)

We already allow public funds to follow students to charter schools, not a fan of vouchers if they can be used for religious affiliated 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)

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

- Yes
- No
- Maybe (explain below)

(Additional comments for question 12)

We have a ways to go before we reach the cap, I would favor allowing more time for the state to reach the cap that is in place right now

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

We have made a good deal of progress in our K-12 system, it is time to refocus on our post secondary education system which has been sorely neglected since the McCleary case and the great recession

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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