

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

Laurie Dolan

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)

McCleary was settled, but K-12 funding was not.

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 ran for the legislature for two basic reasons: 1) K-12 funding, and 2) a capital gains tax.

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)

As part of K-12 funding, I believe we need to revisit the levy lids that were created as part of the McCleary settlement.

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)

While the state is now funding the prototypical model of "basic education," taking away the capacity of local communities to have some local control over their schools is a mistake. In addition, using property tax to fund K-12 education was a mistake. We need a capital gains tax.

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)

1351 was a wonderful goal without a funding source. I would LOVE to see 1351 implemented. My job is to figure out how to fund it. Did I already mention that we need a capital gains tax?

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)

We absolutely need better funding for special education; not certain what is meant by "fully funding" special education. If we had a competency based education system, all students would be in classrooms where learning would be tailored to their needs.

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)

Please tell me more about what the incentives would promote? I am absolutely for more integration based on both racial and economic factors. I was teaching in Seattle in 1972 when school bussing was being planned. Would love to hear your ideas on how to achieve integration without kids spending hours each day on busses.

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)

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 spent 30 years within the Spokane Public Schools, and had the opportunity to start many alternative programs for students. I do not believe that one size education fits every student. I will always encourage K-12 districts to offer alternatives within their mission. That said, charter schools need to be within public education, supervised by elected school boards or OSPI. Public money should never be given to private education.

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

- Yes
- No
- Maybe (explain below)

(Additional comments for question 12)

If you are talking about the charter schools that OSPI and Spokane Public Schools are overseeing, there is some good early data with some very challenging students. Those schools cannot stay in operation if they are not successful. We need to keep tracking the progress.

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

My mission is to fix K-12 funding and get a capital gains tax in place. With 30 years of experience, I bring a unique set of tools to the legislature, and I am in close contact with teachers, parents, principals, superintendents and school board members.

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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