

# 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 \*

Maralyn@maralynchase.com

Candidate Name

MaralynChase@gmail.com

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)

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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)

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3) Will you vote for these specific revenues? \*

- Capital gains tax
- Closing corporate tax loopholes
- Other:

Restore the property tax base. Please see the report from the Washington State Department of Revenue 2016 Tax Exemptions. I would like to discuss this with you.

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## (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)

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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)

Asking for remediation of racial and economic segregation is asking for change of the social and economic relations in our society. Privilege would need to be equalized among all groups. We can try to meet the inequalities by extra financial support but when children go home to a situation without the basic amenities for a decent life, asking teachers and schools to compensate during a small portion of the day is almost asking the impossible. But, we must try. It is time we acknowledge the gross inequality of income and wealth, the massive transfer of income and wealth through our tax system, the shifting of taxes from the wealthy to families of modest means (largely through tax exemptions) which accelerates the basic social and economic inequality that our schools are attempting to reduce. Understanding the increases in property taxes means understanding how taxes are shifted from rich to poor. It is this tax shift that must be addressed. The Washington State Department of Revenue report on 2016 Tax exemptions and explains tax exemptions and tax shifts.

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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)

It is not simply a problem that can be solved by additional school taxes. We need to reform our tax system, restore the tax base so that the majority will pay lower taxes and those who have not been paying property taxes because of exemptions will have to start paying taxes. Restore the tax base rather than give exemptions to some. And while we are at it, if some of us pay sales taxes, all of us should pay sales taxes. The constitution calls for all property to be taxed at a uniform rate. (Article 7) Intangible property was removed from the property tax base and should be put back in. Restore the property tax base and we will have sufficient funds to amply fund public education without more school levies. Intangible property would be stocks and bonds, etc.

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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)

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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 is time to get aggressive in demanding accountability from the legislature for meeting the requirements of the constitution. We have a democratic governor, house and senate, and still have the most regressive, unfair and unjust tax system in the entire United States. It is time for the people to demand fair taxes.

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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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