

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)

While the 2018 budget met the requirements of the McCleary case, additional work is required to make sure the funding is sustained through economic highs and lows. There are still gaps in resources received at schools across the state. A child's education should not be dependent on the zip code in which they live.

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

- Yes
- No
- Maybe (explain below)

(Additional comments for question 2)

Funding public education is a primary responsibility. If existing sources are not sufficient, we need to be bold about considering other options.

3) Will you vote for these specific revenues? *

- Capital gains tax
- Closing corporate tax loopholes

Other:

(Additional comments for question 3)

Washington State's tax code needs revising. I will advocate and support revisions that create a more equitable share and that close outdated tax loopholes.

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)

If the 2019 levy cliff is maintained, schools may lose their opportunity to raise money to pay for basic activities. If this is the case, the State must maintain funding to ensure schools have transportation, special education, and other basic resources that levies have in the past supported.

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)

Gaps and inequities between school districts should be reduced so that every child across the state has equal opportunity to receive the same high quality education.

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)

Parts of Initiative 1351, passed by voters in 2014, were suspended by the legislature in efforts to fully fund public education. The measures included in I-1351 remain vital. I will advocate for and support legislation aimed at hiring more guidance counselors, adding school nurses and lowering class sizes in career- and technical-education classes.

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)

Special education is a critical part of our public education system. As a state, we need to ensure all of our children are provided the means to learn in ways that they can access the material.

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)

Research shows that students are better prepared for success in college and in life when they have been educated in diverse schools and have learned alongside peers who come from all walks of life, both racial and economic. Therefore, school integration is important. As a legislator, I will advocate and support methods for creating diverse schools. Possible methods include equalizing school funding across and within school districts, and supporting and funding mixed-income housing development projects.

9) Do you support a simple majority for school bonds and school levies? *

- Yes
- No
- Maybe (explain below)

(Additional comments for question 9)

A simple majority is required for many taxes to be levied in Washington. School bonds should be held to the same requirement.

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)

While programs to allow students to attend private or charter schools are important, they should not have a net negative impact on underfunded schools and districts.

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)

While programs to allow students to attend private or charter schools are important, they should not have a net negative impact on underfunded schools and districts.

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

- Yes
- No
- Maybe (explain below)

(Additional comments for question 12)

A decision on raising the cap must be based on a thorough analysis and understanding of their success and of their impact on the general public education system and funding.

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

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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