

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 *

voteboehnke4house@gmail.com

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)

Need to continue to support Para-educators, Counselors with mental health training, and reduction of teachers focused on mandatory testing.

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 would have to review the proposed "new" revenues and discuss where they are coming from and where they are going. Most of the time politicians do not see the impact that one has on the other. We need to see this prior to causing more potential problems in the future.

3) Will you vote for these specific revenues? *

- Capital gains tax
- Closing corporate tax loopholes

Other:

Depends; I can see closing some loop holes, but not a capital gains tax. I believe there are other areas of reform we can target and other areas of revenue we can target. What happened to the state lottery and other "sin" taxes supporting education? Where did that money go?

(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)

I need to research more about this issue before I decide.

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 need to research more about this issue before I decide.

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)

As stated above, I see this daily as a current professor. My wife is a para educator and they need a lot of assistance and have not received any in years.

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)

I need to research more about this issue before I decide. I believe in supporting special education as my wife is a para educator for special needs students, but need to research more of the funding areas of this complex issue.

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)

I need to research more about this issue before I decide.

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

- Yes
- No
- Maybe (explain below)

(Additional comments for question 9)

I need to research more about this issue before I decide. We need to be careful as to not cause more problems with enacting legislation while impacting bonds and levies, such as in the past.

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 should always look to improve our education. I need to research more about this issue before I decide which those options are and how we can improve our education system to continue to be the best it can be.

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)

again, see Q10. I believe in working with all individuals on continuing to make our schools the best they can be.

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

- Yes
- No
- Maybe (explain below)

(Additional comments for question 12)

I believe in working with all individuals on continuing to make our schools the best they can be.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to respond to certain questions you may have on my background in understanding the education issues. I believe these are paramount to our success now and in the future. It is my number campaign issue, as I am a current professor at a local college. I believe we need to work together to bridge the broadening divide we have in our government today.

We need to work on solutions that lessen the burden on teachers to allow them to be more effective and efficient. We need to support our teachers and the supporting educators within our current system as they impact our greatest resources, our children. If you need more information about me or my background, please visit my Facebook page "elect matt boehnke" or website: electmattboehnke.us. Thanks again and god bless.

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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