

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 *

mrbellcpa@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)

The McCleary decision provided the absolute bare minimum funding for education to meet the State constitutional requirements. i think we need to provide additional funding to guarantee a high quality education for all students within the State of Washington.

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

- Yes
- No
- Maybe (explain below)

(Additional comments for question 2)

The Democrats are considering tax reform which I support. This will move us away from property and sales taxes which produce a regressive taxing system to a more equitable taxing system that will be paid more evenly regardless of income level.

3) Will you vote for these specific revenues? *

- Capital gains tax
- Closing corporate tax loopholes

Other:

(Additional comments for question 3)

The 650 corporate tax breaks were approved by the legislature for the purpose of creating new jobs. However, the legislature has not looked back once to see if the promised job creations actually occurred. If the jobs were not created, I would like our money back.

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)

We need a permanent solution to the state budget deficit and tax reform appears to be the only solution that works.

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)

Regardless of a student's location throughout the State, the quality of education must be maintained at a certain level that guarantees more than adequate funding to produce a 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)

This is part of the higher quality education that is an investment our children's future.

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 need to meet the requirements of all students.

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 do not believe in segregation for any reason. If the funding is needed to cover transportation costs, I am in favor of that. If the additional funding is not necessarily associated with additional cost incurred by the school district to achieve integration, then I am opposed to the additional funding.

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)

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

- Yes
- No
- Maybe (explain below)

(Additional comments for question 12)

We need to ensure that public schools are operating in a manner to provide high quality education before we divert funds to charter schools. We do not need more charter schools. We need to work on improving the public education programs.

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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