

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 *

jasonandlaura@mac.com

Candidate Name

Rebecca Saldaña

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)

I believe the legislature has complied with the Supreme Court's McCleary decision. We need to ensure that we consider whether we need to update the definition of prototypical schools to ensure educators, children and families have the supports they need to provide healthy food options and health and safety that meets the realities that our schools and educators face today.

The level of homelessness and preparing for active shooters was not something my teachers had to incorporate into the school day. And, we must ensure the investments we made these past two years center on closing the opportunity gap that too many of our children of color face.

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

- Yes
- No
- Maybe (explain below)

(Additional comments for question 2)

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)

This depends on the legislation that is advanced - I want to make sure that we advance more progressive revenue, not a solution that just raises property taxes and sales tax alone.

.....

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)

This depends on the legislation that is advanced - I want to make sure that we advance more progressive revenue, not a solution that just raises property taxes and sales tax alone.

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)

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)

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)

We should not have schools that are segregated either along racial or economic lines. Desegregation must come through changing the policies and law that support segregation - not providing financial incentives to reduce it. Providing a financial incentive to reduce it provides the appearance that we will pay to desegregate rather than simply require desegregation of our school system as a basic American right.

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)

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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