

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 *

sydneyforcascadia@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)

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

- Yes
- No
- Maybe (explain below)

(Additional comments for question 2)

Our state has a very large, consistently-growing revenue stream which needs to be examined and reallocated. The state has plenty of funds - I don't see it using them wisely.

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)

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)

Every student in the state is entitled to equal funding under our constitution.

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)

I voted for smaller class sizes years ago and am still very angry this change has not been made in our schools.

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)

I am in favor of giving families a choice as to where to send their children. Were families not limited by geography but could choose a school that best fit their values and personality stronger communities would organically form. Race and economic status are not the ultimate arbiters of human difference.

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)

A charter school IS a public school. To deny families the choice of how and where to educate their children with their tax dollars is unfair and irrational. Children are individuals with individual interests and needs. A monolithic school system can only possible serve well those in the center of the bell-curve on a variety of attributes and abilities. This forces the outliers to the edge of a community and breeds contempt and failure. I am a member of Washington's Paramount Duty and walked the picket lines with teachers. I've been a parent of a child in the public schools who tried for many years (and four school changes) to make them work for her and hit so many frustrating road blocks just trying to get my kid educated. I believe in funding education but agree with our supreme court when they say throwing more money at a failing system is not enough; we need a paradigm shift.

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)

This is a fascist stance, guys. Free the students and your minds, please. The "public" is a diverse population. Don't take away diverse institutions. One-size-fits-all education isn't working. If you can show me an example to the contrary please do.

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?

Fully-funding education IS our paramount duty as a state, a society, parents and anyone who cares about the future of humanity. The WEA and SEIU own politics in our state and it isn't the kids who are benefiting. I ask you to please look deep into the system and recognize it's flaws. Most highly-functional educational systems in European countries are publicly-funded charter and "private" schools. By all metrics they are more successful.

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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