

43rd District Democrats Platform

Passed March 24th, 2018

PREAMBLE

We are the 43rd Legislative District Democrats, the party of the people, the party of good government. This platform is a declaration of human rights, justice and equality for all. We believe in the values of community, dignity, equality, opportunity, fairness, tolerance, respect, and the common good of the world we share. These values provide the basis for our ideals, supported by our Constitution and the Bill of Rights. It is the sovereign right of the people and necessary to their well-being to enact laws that protect their health, safety, and welfare. We adopt this platform so that the public and candidates for office understand our Democratic Party ideals.

1. AGRICULTURE

We recognize farmers as stewards of the land and support programs that strengthen communities, provide fair wages and safe working conditions for farm workers, preserve family farms, ensure the availability of high-quality food, and maintain the viability of the land. We support:

1. Phasing out farm subsidies that artificially prop up prices, as well as all subsidies to agribusiness
2. Sustainable agriculture, including conservation, crop diversity and environmental efforts that preserve agricultural land and other natural resources
3. Strict standards for organic farming and organic products
4. Accurate and accessible labeling which identifies Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO's), country of origin, and content of fertilizers and mulches, as well as enhanced labeling standards surrounding the term natural
5. Subsidizing farms as they transition to sustainable farming practices such as no till farming
6. Supporting local agriculture in its many forms, including building strong demand for local farmers as well as robust policies to support urban agriculture such as p-patches and the urban fruit tree canopy
7. Encouraging school districts to use locally grown foods in their school meal programs, and teaching students about locally available foods
8. Zoning and other assistance for renewable energy production on farms, including solar and wind
9. Increased reliability and effectiveness of food and livestock inspections to ensure food quality and animal welfare, and to enhance safety and marketability
10. Promoting equitable, sustainable and fair distribution of water to protect resources for future use
11. Increased efforts to preserve soil integrity and establish conservation of trees and habitat, including practices that promote carbon sequestration, top soil regeneration and reduced water use
12. Funding for biofuel research and development, broadening the state's agriculture sector and ensuring domestic energy sustainability and security

We oppose:

1. The introduction of non-native species for pest control in agriculture
2. The abuse of intellectual property laws to promote corporate agriculture over small farmers

2. HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL RIGHTS

The rights guaranteed by our Constitution and international human rights law should not be compromised. We support:

1. Repealing provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act and Protect America Act that violate the U.S. Constitution, and ending warrantless governmental eavesdropping
2. Strong antidiscrimination laws and policies applicable to employment, promotion, education, and housing
3. Every adult's right to marry regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity
4. Every woman's right to reproductive choice, including the right to choose family planning and abortion, regardless of age or ability to pay, in the United States and abroad
5. Fully enforcing and funding the Americans with Disabilities Act
6. The right of foreign nationals to have access to consular officials if accused of a crime
7. Freedom of religion, and the separation of church and state
8. Applying all non-discrimination requirements to faith-based organizations that accept public funding
9. The right to privacy
10. The right to nonbinary gender identification, and the ability to use bathroom facilities corresponding with individual gender identity
11. Overturning I-200 to allow the use of affirmative action
12. The U.S. Constitutional rights to free speech and political speech including in the form of boycott and protest

We oppose:

1. The use of military tribunals to try nonmilitary defendants and indeterminate detention of "enemy combatants"
2. Organized prayer or mandatory religious activities in public schools
3. Any immigration policy that denies civil or human rights or educational opportunities to immigrants and their children, regardless of their immigration status, such as indefinite detention of immigrants
4. The use of conversion therapy
5. The labeling and classification of protests and other direct action as "economic terrorism"
6. The infiltration by law enforcement of political, social, and other activist organizations with intent to disrupt, destabilize, or agitate the organization from within

3. CORPORATE POWER

We believe that the various corporate structures provide important economic and legal benefits for small business owners, nonprofits, and multinational organizations. Nevertheless, they are legal fictions. Benefits such as limited liability and tax-exemption which accrue to certain corporate entities must be balanced by strong regulations intended to encourage corporate responsibility. We support:

1. Reinstating the Glass-Steagal banking regulations that separate investment banking from retail banking and hold both to higher standards of transparency and accountability
2. Tying CEO wages to the typical wage of workers at the company to reduce inequality, exploitation, and institutional instability
3. The creation of stronger laws against corporate crimes and stricter enforcement for corporate criminals. Penalties shall include incarceration of executives and revocation of corporate charters
4. A strong Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) to regulate financial products, consumer banking, and credit cards
5. Sunshine laws that demand transparency in corporate accounting and a well-funded IRS department to ensure that these laws are enforced
6. Reasonable and limited trademark, copyright, and patent laws that respect the hard work and creativity of innovators while allowing their ideas to flourish and inspire others
7. Strong antitrust enforcement against monopolies that harm consumers, workers, and small businesses

4. ECONOMIC JUSTICE

We are committed to strong communities based on equal access to job opportunities, tax fairness, and shared prosperity. We support:

1. Fair and equitable taxation to provide revenue sufficient to meet constitutional requirements and promote the general welfare
2. Repealing tax breaks and incentives for companies that move jobs out of state
3. Tax reform, including a state income tax, to make state and local taxes fairer and less regressive
4. A more progressive effective tax rate, particularly on the wealthiest Americans
5. A Federal estate tax for estates of \$5 million or more for individuals, and \$10 million or more for couples, indexed to median worker wage
6. Removing the cap on income subject to Social Security tax
7. Expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit to help the working poor
8. Protecting pensions from employer bankruptcy and pension fund manipulation
9. Property tax circuit-breaker legislation to assist low-income homeowners and renters
10. Preventing unnecessary foreclosures by requiring mortgage lenders to negotiate in good faith, in a timely manner, with distressed homeowners

11. Expanding and strengthening consumer protections, including protection of homeowners from faulty construction
12. Federal and state efforts to create sustainable, living-wage jobs
13. Government efforts to nurture new businesses, using such techniques as credit expansion, micro-lending, and new-business incubators
14. Encouraging use of local banks and credit unions for savings, and providing community investment opportunities through lower-denomination municipal bond offerings
15. A Universal Basic Income that assures the dignity of every person and ensures a floor that we refuse to allow any individual to fall below

We oppose:

1. Corporate welfare, including tax breaks that don't provide significant public benefit
2. U.S. businesses incorporating offshore to evade taxes
3. Privatizing of public services
4. Supply-side economics as inhumane, ineffective at providing for the common good, and an obstacle to a functional democracy
5. Payday loans as they permit financial institutions to prey on the economically disadvantaged

5. EDUCATION

Education is essential to a democracy and an imperative to flourish and compete in this 21st century economy. As our Washington State Constitution says, "it is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provisions for the education of all children." We support:

1. Full funding for public schools
2. Appropriate and comprehensive services for students including those who have special needs, English language learners, foster or homeless youth, highly capable, low-income, LGBTQ and students of color
3. Full staffing of non-classroom support such as counselors, librarians, nurses, psychologists, etc. to meet the social, emotional, health, safety and educational needs of all students
4. Class-size reductions in grades 4-5 as approved by voters in Initiative 1351
5. Full capital funding to upgrade school facilities, upgrade technology and safety systems, provide classrooms for full-day kindergarten and reduced class-size requirements, and to meet the increased capacity needs of all growing districts
6. A commitment to curriculum that includes STEM, the environment, arts, music and civics in addition to the basic education minimums
7. Competitive pay and benefits for all public educators
8. A "staff mix" allocation formula, continuing education and compensatory adjustments for high-cost areas

9. Quality opportunities to expand access to teaching degrees to address current teacher shortages
10. Increased opportunities in diverse communities to earn post-secondary credit in high school through exam classes, career & technical education, apprenticeships, internships and an increase in corporate partnerships
11. Increased access to higher education for all students, including affordable tuition, full funding of federal and state grants and scholarship programs, affordable student housing and student support services
12. Loan forgiveness for graduates who choose public service careers, the ability to refinance student loans, and protections for student loan borrowers
13. Progressive sourcing of revenue to fund our schools and libraries to reduce the tax burden on low- or fixed-income residents
14. The sustainable use of public lands to maximize revenues for schools
15. State-funded universal pre-school, as well as affordable before and after-school programs

We oppose:

1. The privatization of schools with charter schools or private school vouchers
2. Commercial marketing or aggressive military recruiting in public schools
3. Evaluating teachers on the basis of standardized student testing
4. Disproportionate discipline of students

6. ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

We believe our prosperity and survival depend on a stable climate, clean air, clean water, healthy food and sustainable ecosystems. We have a moral responsibility to children throughout the world to steward water, land and the air we breathe. We reject the premise that we must choose between jobs and conserving the environment as we see that protecting the environment will create significant opportunities for American enterprise. We support:

1. Immediate transition away from carbon intensive sources of energy such as coal and fracked natural gas, and towards sustainable energy such as wind and solar in order to commit Washington State to an economy running on 100% renewable energy by 2040
2. A state and national price on carbon pollution which provides incentives to move towards a renewable energy economy
3. Programs that improve energy efficiency including weatherization and appliance efficiency measures
4. Ensuring rural communities, poor communities, and communities of color are not burdened by the cost nor left out of the opportunity in the transition to a low carbon economy
5. Investment in research, development, and job creation in the renewable and alternative energy sector, including incentives for energy conservation and the development of needed electric vehicle transportation infrastructure and other promising technologies

6. Protecting farmland, forests, wildlife habitat, natural resources, and the rural areas from urban sprawl by enforcing and strengthening our state's Growth Management Act, and taking action through conservation easements to preserve farmland and habitat
7. Building more dense housing near transit infrastructure and expanding public transit, bike, and pedestrian infrastructure in order to reduce sprawl, improve mobility, and reduce carbon pollution
8. Mitigating the effects of climate change through projects that increase CO2 sequestration through improved agriculture and forest resiliency, including the planting of 1 billion trees in Washington
9. We support green union jobs and support the unionization of workers in the clean energy economy
10. A Washington State Environmental Policy Act appeals process that includes consideration of the long term environmental benefits of potential projects
11. Requiring industries and polluters to safely recycle and dispose of the pollution and waste created by their products and the manufacturing thereof
12. Assessing the toxicity and potential effects on the ecology of chemicals prior to their manufacture and release into the environment.
13. Strong financial regulations and regulatory oversight for mining and petrochemical corporations preventing them from self-insuring for environmental reclamation
14. A Superfund Tax to make polluters pay for cleanup as well as make businesses clean up their toxic sites
15. Adequate funding for maintenance and protection of our national parks, wilderness areas, and environmentally sensitive areas as pristine national treasures while keeping access affordable for our citizens with low and fixed incomes
16. Keeping our public lands public and run by publicly owned entities

We oppose:

1. New fossil fuel infrastructure projects, including any project with the primary intent of extracting, exporting, generating electricity, or fueling vehicles with fossil fuels
2. Inappropriate management of toxic waste such as shipping radioactive waste to Hanford until the site is brought into compliance with existing regulations and the impact of past waste disposal has been fully remedied
3. Exporting banned chemicals or toxic waste to other countries
4. Policies that detract from implementation or prevent renewable projects, such as government funding of research into "clean coal" technology or tariffs on imported solar panels
5. The use of single-use non-biodegradable packaging

7. FOREIGN POLICY

To strengthen our security and promote peace throughout the world, America must work within the international community, using the tools of development, diplomacy and defense, in a spirit of mutual respect and cooperation. We support:

1. Increased emphasis on resolving international conflicts through diplomacy
2. Reforming and expanding sustainable development aid, thus addressing the instability that is a root cause of terrorism
3. Diplomatic engagement with multiple parties in conflicts abroad, aiming at a peaceful resolution of the conflicts
4. Strengthening the United Nations by paying our full dues, supporting peacekeeping, and working to make sure its policies and practices support human rights
5. Use of the full influence of the United States, through serious, constructive and persistent engagement, to promote negotiations and other actions that lead to a successful and sustainable resolution of the Israeli–Palestinian conflict, based on mutual recognition, that ensures security, economic growth, human rights, and quality of life for the peoples of the sovereign state of Israel and a sovereign state of Palestine
6. Reducing the world's nuclear stockpiles and strengthening and complying with international disarmament treaties, including the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, Chemical and Biological Weapons Conventions, and Space Preservation Treaty against space-based weapons
7. Ratifying and complying with the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, International Landmines treaties, International Criminal Court, Genocide Convention, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and Convention on the Rights of the Child
8. Restoring and reaffirming our historic adherence to the Geneva Conventions, and affording those rights to any person detained in a combat zone by the US Military
9. Complying with the provisions of all international human rights treaties to which we are a party
10. Amending trade treaties to include agreements that incorporate human rights, labor rights, public health, and consumer and environmental protection
11. International aid for family planning including for abortion care
12. Revision of the War Powers Act to assure that Congress can declare an end to a war
13. The Cuban people's right to political and economic self-determination, and an end to the U.S.-imposed embargo and travel ban

We oppose:

1. Using the "global war on terror" to justify military action, against Iran or any other country, without a Congressional vote
2. Preemptive war and unilateral military or covert action to effect regime change
3. International Monetary Fund policies that compel privatization of vital government services, such as water, as a condition of refinancing national debt
4. Leaving the Paris climate treaty and other efforts to undermine global solutions to climate change
5. Illegitimate foreign interference in elections by any actor against any sovereign state

8. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL REFORM

A good democracy ensures that its voting process is fair, transparent and accessible to all citizens and that its election results are representative of the will of the population while still preserving individual rights. We support:

1. A constitutional amendment to reverse court decisions like *Citizens United* and the illegitimate notion that money equals speech and that corporations have the right to influence the outcome of elections through financial intervention
2. Vigorous enforcement of the right to vote for all citizens, including those who are or have been incarcerated
3. Permanent voter registration in conjunction with same-day, automatic and early voter registration for new voters
4. More equitable distribution of voting facilities and services
5. Public campaign financing for all elections
6. State funding of public debates for statewide offices and ballot measures
7. Extending elective-office contribution limits to include contributions made to any PAC or other organization supporting or opposing a candidate or ballot issue
8. Full disclosure of the source of campaign funds, including independently controlled campaigns and issue advertising
9. Strong limits or prohibition on use of corporate and special-interest funds to influence legislative votes and executive decisions
10. Increased security for ballots and vote-tabulating machines
11. Alternative voting and election methods which result in more representative election results
12. A Constitutional amendment providing for direct election of the U.S. President by a majority vote and the abolition of the Electoral College
13. Restoring the function of the U.S. Senate by abolishing Senate "holds" on appointments and legislation
14. Counting felons, for census and voting purposes, as residents of their last place of residence rather than their place of incarceration
15. Congress and the judiciary being proactive in checking executive power
16. Requiring that government decisions involving scientific issues be based on scientific consensus and that all materials affecting those decisions be disclosed to the public
17. Fair and transparent procedures in all areas of government which do not compromise national security, especially in contracting and procurement
18. Requiring local governments to post meeting notices, agendas, minutes, documents and databases on the internet in a timely and user-friendly manner, and to partner with news media to inform citizens about issues

19. Disclosing tax exemptions as expenditures in the state budget
20. Legislative approval of state budgets and revenues by simple majority vote
21. Automatic sunseting of non-performing state tax exemptions after 10 years or less

We oppose:

1. Use of voting machines with proprietary software that cannot be verified or audited
2. Use of electronic voting machines which are not accompanied by a verifiable paper record of each vote cast
3. Improperly removing or challenging registered voters from the voting rolls
4. Arbitrary state spending limits being imposed
5. Congressional "earmarks" for pork-barrel projects
6. Presidential "signing statements" being used to countermand the will of Congress
7. Gerrymandering for any reason, except for the provisions of the Voting Rights Acts

9. HEALTH CARE

Health care is a basic human right. It is the responsibility of government to ensure the health and safety of its citizens. We support:

1. Establishment of a nationwide, publicly funded, nonprofit, single-payer universal health care plan providing comprehensive care including behavioral health treatment, affordable coverage of prescription drugs, family planning (including safe abortion), dental, vision and hearing
2. A primary-care provider for everyone, to assure regular preventive care
3. Grants to encourage medical students to specialize in primary care in under-served areas
4. Full funding for reproductive care, comprehensive sexual health education and access to contraception and abortion services
5. Timely dispensing of all legally prescribed medicines by every pharmacy
6. Public funding of quality long-term care with options for in-home care
7. Effective programs to combat obesity
8. An individual's right to treatment for substance addictions, including opioids, alcohol, and nicotine
9. A strong federal Patient's Bill of Rights including elimination of restrictions on coverage for pre-existing conditions
10. Requiring coverage for scientifically supported forms of alternative medicine

10. HUMAN SERVICES

A functional community provides a safety net of social services to meet the basic needs of its people, especially those on the margins of society, so that each may attain their full potential. We support:

1. Among the highest priorities of government, ensuring adequate human services, especially for those on the margins of society, including children, the elderly, and people who are impoverished, experiencing homelessness, differently abled, and those suffering from behavioral health issues
2. Reform of public assistance to reduce poverty and not just the welfare rolls, making available education, training, treatment for addiction, and quality affordable childcare, to help recipients become self-supporting
3. Ending homelessness in our communities, with governmental action to ensure that all people have safe and affordable housing, and with affordable housing subsidies targeted at those who make 50% or less of the Area Median Income, throughout the city
4. Full funding of and unimpeded access to public assistance for housing and essential needs to safeguard the vulnerable poor, people with disabilities, and those who have multiple Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) who cannot reasonably provide for themselves
5. Safe consumption sites and requiring first responders to be trained and equipped for overdose response

11. IMMIGRATION

All immigrants should be afforded fundamental human rights and a fair, safe, and timely path to legal status. We support:

1. Comprehensive immigration reform, providing for greater legal immigration and options for undocumented immigrants and those with temporary protected status to become citizens
2. Protecting the integrity of our borders and recognizing the basic human rights of immigrants, providing them with due process and legal representation in all proceedings
3. Accepting refugees from conflict zones such as Syria after undergoing existing thorough vetting processes
4. Policies to more fully integrate immigrants into our community with shared prosperity, greater opportunities and higher living standards for all
5. Discouraging illegal immigration and encouraging lawful immigration by increasing quotas and speeding processing of applications for legal entry, asylum, temporary work permits, permanent residence ("green cards"), and citizenship where that status is sought
6. Eliminating quotas for individuals to immigrate to the United States
7. Fair and humane treatment of all who enter the United States, including nondiscriminatory access to government services, and family reunification where appropriate
8. Provisions to prevent discrimination in wages and working conditions for immigrant workers, including access to safe and adequate housing, medical care and educational opportunities, to protect

them from exploitation and to protect American workers from being undercut by employers taking advantage of an illegal and exploited workforce

9. Using diplomacy and sustainable development to improve the social, economic and environmental conditions in other nations that contribute to illegal immigration into the U.S.

We oppose:

1. Cooperation by local or state governments with federal efforts to detain and/or deport undocumented community members
2. Detention of immigrants for crimes which citizens would not be detained for
3. The use of private facilities for immigration detention
4. Banning travel or entry to the United States from entire countries
5. Deportation of anyone brought to the United States as a minor
6. Deportations that would break up families

12. LABOR

We believe in the dignity of all workers and demand fair wages and benefits in return. We insist on the right of all workers to join labor unions, to bargain collectively, and to take part in setting their working conditions. We support:

1. The right of all workers to organize, to engage in collective bargaining, with the rights of association, assembly, free speech and due process in the workplace, and to strike without fear of reprisal or replacement
2. A workplace free from discrimination based upon gender, disability, religion, sexual orientation, race, age, immigration status, national origin, ethnicity, gender identity, union activity or political preference
3. Enforcement and creation of statutes, such as the Lilly Ledbetter Act, which require equal pay for equal work
4. A livable minimum wage that is tied to, and increases with, inflation
5. Extended unemployment benefits and retraining opportunities for locked-out workers
6. A safe, hazard-free workplace for all workers
7. Strong whistleblower laws that ensure the protection of workers who report safety hazards, executive malfeasance, harassment, or other violations of law or regulations in the workplace
8. Contractor responsibility to the community through responsible bidder language in all public contracts, including fair wages, health insurance, retirement & training
9. Safe and adequate housing, medical care, education, and sanitary facilities for migrant workers
10. Prevailing wage provisions, with 15% of workers at apprentice level, for all government contracts
11. Accuracy in employment statistics, such as counting as unemployed those persons whose benefits have expired or those who have given up an active search for employment

12. Laws that strengthen protections and prevent wage abuses for independent contractors and self-employed persons (“1099” workers)
13. Paid parental leave of one year for all employees, including adoption
14. Paid medical leave for all employees
15. On-site child care for large employers
16. Paid personal leave of four weeks for all employees

We oppose:

1. Mandatory overtime
2. Mandatory indoctrination meetings
3. Use of independent contractors to replace regular state employees
4. Manipulation of employment rules to deny independent contractors employee benefits
5. So-called “right-to-work” laws
6. The practice of paying tipped workers less than minimum wage in states that allow this practice, and the practice of “tip pooling” - or any method that allows employers to pocket the tips of servers - in states that do not

13. LAW AND THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Government must provide for the safety and security of the general public with care, evenhandedness and respect for the individual. We support:

1. Reasonable security measures to protect the public without sacrifice of civil liberties
2. Greater emphasis on preventive and rehabilitative measures in prison, and alternative sentencing that emphasizes rehabilitation, especially for juveniles
3. Providing special mental health courts for mentally ill people caught up in the criminal justice system, to assist in their medical treatment and rehabilitation
4. DNA testing to convict the guilty and exonerate the innocent
5. Accountability in law enforcement, with effective civilian review
6. Federal legalization of marijuana and the vacation of prior marijuana convictions and Legal Financial Obligations stemming from these convictions
7. Restoring FBI funding to investigate white collar crime
8. Comprehensive reform of Legal Financial Obligations
9. Bail Reform
10. Fully funded treatment courts

11. Improved law enforcement de-escalation training to prevent killing of suspects and unlawful use of force
12. Timely processing of rape kits
13. Keeping firearms out of the hands of those who present a danger to themselves or others through comprehensive background checks nationwide
14. Requiring safe firearm storage and firearm safety certification
15. Holding firearm owners liable when crimes are committed with their weapons
16. Registering firearms to enable the safe relocation of firearms owned by individuals who become a danger to themselves or others
17. Banning firearm accessories nationwide that enable sustained high rates of fire, including bump stocks and magazines holding more than ten cartridges, to minimize the risk of poorly aimed or indiscriminate shots wounding family members and passersby in personal defense situations
18. A mandatory waiting period for all firearm purchases
19. Subjecting all sales of centerfire semi-automatic firearms that accept a removable magazine to the same waiting period and background check (including review by local law enforcement) currently required for sales of handguns in Washington
20. A ban of centerfire semi-automatic firearms that accept a removable magazine

We oppose:

1. Capital punishment
2. Profiling
3. Privatizing prisons
4. Warrantless searches, including tracking of cell phone and internet use without a warrant
5. Juvenile imprisonment
6. Militarization of police
7. Civil asset forfeiture
8. The "Three Strikes" law and mandatory minimum sentences
9. Arming school teachers, administration, and faculty members, and other attempts to introduce or increase the presence of firearms in the classroom

14. MEDIA REFORM

An informed citizenry and independent media are essential for democracy to flourish. We support:

1. Public access to the internet
2. Public ownership of internet infrastructure, emphasizing development of broadband in rural areas

3. Internet neutrality, in which all users and content providers have equal access to internet service without discrimination or prioritization based on content transmitted
4. Multicultural media and minority ownership
5. Increased funding for public radio and public television
6. Reinstating the media Fairness Doctrine in election campaigns and extending it to cable networks, to promote more balanced political coverage
7. Allocating low-power broadcast frequencies for educational and non-profit institutions
8. A shield law to protect journalists from being pressured to reveal their sources
9. Providing grants to non-profit media to support reporting on local governments and issues

We oppose:

1. The corporate concentration of media ownership
2. Political pressure directed at public radio and television
3. Government-funded propaganda disguised as news
4. Government intimidation of the news media, including false claims of national security reasons to suppress investigative journalism
5. Foreign government-funded propaganda

15. MILITARY

We are proud to honor the service of those who choose to serve in our country's armed forces. We support:

1. Increased benefits for our troops, veterans, and their families, including education assistance and quality medical and mental health care
2. Full funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs
3. Protecting our troops and veterans from sexual harassment and assault and from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity
4. The expeditious and orderly draw-down of U.S. forces from conflicts abroad
5. Maintaining a well-trained and well-equipped military, sufficient for the defense of the American people, our vital interests, and our treaty partners when all other means of diplomacy and protection are exhausted
6. Congress asserting its constitutional powers to declare war, regulate and govern the military

We oppose:

1. Excessive or unnecessary military spending
2. The undue influence of the military-industrial complex over national policy

3. Sending National Guard personnel overseas except for humanitarian relief operations
4. Using contractors not subject to the rule of law in military or paramilitary operations
5. U.S. training of foreign military or police forces that suppress human rights in their own countries

16. TRANSPORTATION

Safe public transportation will promote equal opportunity and will improve the quality of life for all. We support:

1. Transit and transit-oriented development as a priority over new road construction in urban areas
2. Affordable transit for low-income residents, including free youth fares
3. Repeal of the 18th amendment to the Washington State Constitution, so that state gasoline taxes may be used to fund public transit as well as highways
4. Keeping roads, bridges, and ferries in good repair, with a focus on maintaining and expanding bicycle and pedestrian transit modes
5. Continued expansion of and investment into Sound Transit, especially expansions of light rail and grade-separated rail offerings, and including fully funding and supporting the ST3 initiative
6. Thorough investigation of visionary high-impact initiatives, such as the proposals made by the Lid I-5 campaign and the Cascadia High-Speed Rail plan

17. TRIBAL RELATIONS AND SOVEREIGNTY

Local, state and federal governments must respect Native American Nations on a sovereign government-to-government basis and must respect the decisions of such nations, affirm their rights derived from treaties and compacts, and oppose attempts to diminish their sovereignty and cultures. We Support:

1. Government recognition of the inherent sovereignty and treaty rights of Native American nations as self-determining and self-governing
2. Restoration of federal recognition of formerly recognized tribes
3. Continued efforts to maintain and restore salmon runs and protect shellfish resources that are critical to Native American cultures and economies
4. The preservation, protection, and restoration of sites and symbols of historic, cultural and religious significance, including languages, customs, and rituals
5. Governmental steps to help improve the social, economic and health status of all Native American people
6. The promotion, restoration, and protection of the rights of Native American people, with full respect for their cultural values, languages, and traditions, whether or not they are recognized by the United States government
7. Recognition of the Duwamish tribe