

4 **2006 Proposed Platform -- Summary**

6 **Snohomish County Democrats believe that:**

- **Agriculture:** Sound agricultural practices are essential to the economic health and sustainability of our region.

- **Civil Rights:** The foundation and strength of our democracy rests upon the rights and responsibilities set forth in the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and other laws.

- **Corporate Power:** Corporate power that places the rights and interests of corporations above the rights and interests of people must be regulated.

- **Crime and Criminal Justice:** The government has a basic responsibility to prevent crime and to alleviate the social and economic conditions that contribute to crime.

- **Education:** Providing for excellence in the content and delivery of public education is the paramount duty of our State Government.

- **Environment and Energy:** We must establish and enforce policies and regulations to protect and preserve the earth and its resources.

- **Foreign Policy:** The foreign policy of the United States needs to adopt non-violence and sustainability as organizing principles.

- **Government and the Democratic Party:** Citizens and government must work as an effective team to achieve worthwhile goals.

- **Government and Political Reform:** Our system of elections must be open, trustworthy, and accessible to all eligible voters.

- **Healthcare:** Access to high quality healthcare should be available to every person.

- **Human Rights:** Human rights belong to every person regardless of status or location.

- **Immigration:** Immigration policies must not deny civil or human

45 rights to any immigrants or their children.

46

47 • **Indian Tribes, Treaties, and Education:** Treaties made between
48 sovereign Indian nations and the U. S. Government must be upheld
49 and preserved and Indian education must become a high priority.

50

51 • **Labor and Economic Justice:** Economic justice is required for a
52 democratic society and a strong economy.

53

54 • **Land Use:** Air, land, and water must be protected for future
55 generations.

56

57 • **Media Reform:** Freedom of the press, high standards of journalism,
58 public access to diverse media, and the preservation of the public
59 interest are essential in media reform.

60

61 • **Military:** Our military must be adequate to provide for the common
62 defense, while avoiding abuses of power.

63

64 • **Transportation:** A system of transportation needs to be efficient,
65 economical, safe, and environmentally sound with adequate funding
66 and good management.

67

68 **AGRICULTURE**

69

70 Good agricultural practices are essential to the economic health and
71 sustainability of our region and our farmers must be supported in their
72 efforts and valued for the vital contributions they provide to our community.

73

74 **We believe that:**

75 • Land use practices should be informed by long-term needs of the
76 community; therefore, efforts being made to preserve viable farmland
77 must be continued and intensified.

78 • Our state and local governments should continue to do whatever
79 possible to expand the use and availability of renewable fuels and
80 energy sources such as wind, methane, and bio-fuels, all of which
81 can directly benefit our farmers.

82 • The sale and consumption of locally grown products should be
83 encouraged whenever possible by government at all levels.

84 • Since organic farming methods are better for the environment than
85 are traditional practices, public policy should provide for incentives to
86 encourage organic farming or for conventional farmers to convert to
87 organic growing practices.

- 88 • Since toxic waste in fertilizer uptakes in plants and hence people are
89 not able to thrive with this toxic load, government should prohibit the
90 recycling of toxic waste in fertilizer.
91

92 **CIVIL RIGHTS**

93

94 The foundation and strength of our democracy rest on the rights and
95 responsibilities set forth in the U. S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, other
96 amendments to the Constitution, the ideals set forth in the Declaration of
97 Independence, and other protections of individual liberty enacted by
98 Congress, the Constitution of the State of Washington, and applicable case
99 law.

100

101 **We believe that:**

- 102 • The equal separation of powers among the Legislative, Judicial and
103 Executive Branches of government must be maintained.
- 104 • The protection of individual citizens' rights and liberties must be the
105 paramount duty of government.
- 106 • There must be a strict separation between church and state in a
107 secular government, free of the religious beliefs of lawmakers.
- 108 • We must support the civil rights of gays, lesbians, bi-sexual, trans-
109 sexual, and trans-gendered persons; this includes support for equal
110 opportunity in employment, housing, and public accommodations,
111 and we oppose using sexual orientation as an issue in adoption or
112 foster care proceedings.
- 113 • It is unconstitutional for government at any level to prevent or force
114 any religious organization to perform the rite of marriage.
- 115 • Government at any level must not interfere with adult couples who
116 choose to declare commitment to a civil union or to marry and share
117 fully and equally in the rights, responsibilities, and benefits presently
118 accrued because of marriage, regardless of sexual orientation.

119

120 **We support and defend:**

- 121 • A woman's right to choose, as protected by *Roe v. Wade* and the
122 *Washington State Reproductive Freedom Act*.
- 123 • The enactment of laws providing the right to die with dignity.
- 124 • The right of senior citizens to discuss all aspects of death and dying
125 without being subjected to unwanted psychiatric intervention.
126

127 **We demand:**

- 128 • The right to confidentiality of medical records and genetic information,
129 as well as the right to sovereignty of all persons over their own

130 bodies.

- 131 • The right to obtain medically safe prescriptions and over-the-counter
132 medications such as the “Plan B” (Day After) pill.

133

134**We oppose:**

- 135 • Discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodation,
136 military service, insurance, licensing, or education based upon race,
137 religion, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity,
138 size, political affiliation, disability, or national origin.

139

140**CORPORATE POWER**

141

142The “commons”ⁱ includes the vast realms of nature and society that we
143inherit together and must pass on, undiminished, to future generations.

144The “commons” is protected in “The Universal Declaration of the Rights of
145Man” and must not be privatized.

146

147**We believe that:**

- 148 • Giant corporations govern the United States of America and the
149 earth, violating the fundamental democratic principle of the “consent
150 of the governed.”
- 151 • Democracy can contest corporate domination.
- 152 • Democracy must make people’s humanity and constitutional rights a
153 reality.
- 154 • We can challenge illegitimate corporate authority.
- 155 • Corporations are not persons, but are *legal fictions*.ⁱⁱ
- 156 • Corporate subsidies that consume taxpayer dollars and that
157 undermine fair competition should be eliminated.

158

159**We support:**

- 160 • The revocation of charters of corporations that violate our laws.
- 161 • A government that places the needs of the people of the United
162 States of America above those of corporations.
- 163 • The protection of “the commons”ⁱⁱⁱ so that future generations will be
164 able to thrive.
- 165 • Transparency in corporate accounting.
- 166 • Tax credits and investment support for small business.
- 167 • The invigoration of oversight and revocation powers of the states with
168 regard to corporations no longer serving the public interest.

169

170**We oppose:**

- 171 • The preferential treatment that corporations have over individual and

172 collective rights in the U. S. Judicial System.
173 • Undue influence by corporations over the government of the United
174 States of America.

175

176

177 **CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

178

179 The government has a basic responsibility to prevent crime and to alleviate
180 the social and economic conditions that contribute to crime.

181

182 **We believe that:**

- 183 • The use and abuse of drugs are medical issues and not criminal
184 offenses.
- 185 • There should be strong laws relating to the production and sale of
186 drugs.
- 187 • The growing of marijuana for personal use for medical treatment
188 when prescribed by a licensed physician should be legal.
- 189 • Sex between consenting adults is not a law enforcement issue.
- 190 • The death penalty should be replaced with the penalty of “life
191 imprisonment without parole.”
- 192 • The civil rights of ex-convicts should be automatically restored upon
193 release of prisoners from incarceration and completion of their
194 probation or parole, provided that arrangements are made for the
195 payment of fines according to ability to pay over a period of time and
196 that interest should not be applied to these funds.

197

198 **We support:**

- 199 • Determinate sentencing with the provision that judges must supply
200 in writing reasons for exceeding limits.

201

202 **EDUCATION**

203

204 Providing for excellence in the delivery and content of public education is
205 the paramount duty of our state government. Schools that fully prepare our
206 children to meet the world’s academic, vocational, and social challenges
207 put them on the surest path to equality of opportunity, prosperity, and
208 personal dignity.

209 **We believe that:**

- 210 • The state must ensure that access to educational opportunity is
211 guaranteed for every child, regardless of race, creed, gender,
212 sexual orientation, socio-economic status, residency status,
213 natural ability, or school district tax base.

- 214 • Each child’s individual physical, mental, and emotional
215 development requires fully supported and accessible
216 accommodation and adequate funding.
- 217 • Instruction in the arts and music is an essential part of basic
218 education and must be adequately funded.
- 219 • Children need appropriate and adequate physical activity and
220 unstructured play time during the school day.
- 221 • Universal pre-school access must be adequately funded to
222 prepare every child for the task of learning.
- 223 • Our public education system must do everything possible to
224 encourage parental participation in their children’s school
225 experience.
- 226 • Conscientious focus on the importance of valuing our cultural
227 differences and increasing our children’s understanding of
228 diverse cultural communities must be continued and expanded.
- 229 • Children need age-appropriate instruction regarding medically
230 accurate reproduction and sexuality information, as well as an
231 awareness of child abuse, the dangers of drug use, and
232 communicable diseases, including but not limited to STDs and
233 HIV AIDS.
- 234 • Our schools must foster good citizenship, healthy decision-
235 making, respect, empathy, and an understanding of how to
236 practice non-violent conflict resolution.
- 237 • All schools must be safe, secure, and nurturing.
- 238 • Healthful foods must be served and made available to all
239 children in our schools.
- 240 • The ratio of students to certificated classroom personnel should
241 promote effective learning.
- 242 • Public education must be kept under full public control.
- 243 • A strong economy requires a well-trained workforce and we
244 must commit to providing adult students with high quality,
245 continued education and career training, including school to
246 work partnerships and apprenticeship programs, in addition to
247 traditional higher education.
- 248 • We must compensate all school personnel, certificated and
249 classified, with a wage scale that demonstrates our
250 appreciation for the critically important work that they do, in
251 order to establish and retain a highly qualified and capable
252 workforce able to accomplish all that we expect from our public
253 school system.
- 254 • We must be prepared to reimburse our educators for any
255 expenses incurred for additional training required of them as

256 dictated by student needs or government mandates.
257 • A stable funding source for all basic, gifted, special education
258 state and federal programs and mandates, such as “No Child
259 Left Behind” must be identified and implemented.
260
261

262 **ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY**

263

264 The earth’s biosphere is the only known haven for life. It is endangered by
265 some human activities and aided by others.
266

267 **We support:**

- 268 • Ongoing publicly funded and openly reported research in the
269 environmental sciences.
- 270 • Policies that protect and enhance the Biosphere, even when these
271 frustrate near-term commercial interests or run counter to
272 apocalyptic religious teachings.
- 273 • Distributed solar and wind power generation, suited to local
274 conditions.
- 275 • Regulation of population flow into the Nation, the State, the
276 County, and cities.
- 277 • Population control measures that are based on scientifically
278 accurate birth control information disseminated locally, nationally
279 and internationally, by making available education and economic
280 opportunities for women.
281

282 **We oppose:**

- 283 • Policies which either enrich polluters or to keep them revenue
284 neutral at the expense of the community at large.
- 285 • Policies that extract yet more non-renewable energy at ever higher
286 costs to the Biosphere, without providing for transition to
287 renewable sources.
- 288 • Reversing or weakening of EPA policies and regulations that were
289 in effect in 2000.
290
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294

295 **FOREIGN POLICY**

296

297 The foreign policy of the United States needs to adopt nonviolence and

298sustainability as its primary organizing principles, uphold human welfare
299worldwide, support the right of all people to self-governance and self-
300determination, and be cooperative rather than directive.

301

302**We support international agreements such as these:**

- 303 • Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty
- 304 • Biological and Chemical Weapons Conventions
- 305 • Small Arms Treaty
- 306 • International Criminal Court
- 307 • Land Mines Treaty
- 308 • Kyoto Climate Treaty
- 309 • CEDAW (Convention to End Discrimination Against Women)
- 310 • United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

311

312**We further support and affirm our nations:**

- 313 • Actively seeking cooperative justice, human rights, and
314 reconciliation among nations.
- 315 • relying on cooperative diplomacy to prevent acts of terrorism and
316 resolve international conflicts
- 317 • Negotiating fair trade agreements with all willing countries,
318 particularly when these agreements include provisions to
319 encourage sustainable agricultural and manufacturing practices;
320 protect the environment; and promote health, safety, and worker
321 rights.
- 322 • Working with the world community through the United Nations and
323 its agencies, including the World Court.
- 324 • Bearing a fair share of the United Nations' development,
325 peacekeeping, and defense initiatives.
- 326 • Renegotiating trade agreements such as NAFTA or exercising the
327 right of the United States to withdraw.
- 328 • Providing leadership towards worldwide elimination of land mines.
- 329 • Providing leadership towards banning of nuclear, chemical,
330 biological, and space-based weapons, and the use of depleted
331 uranium weapons.
- 332 • Actions in dealing with all nations and peoples impartially, and that
333 these nations and peoples be treated with equal respect, dignity
334 and honor.

335

336

337**We strongly oppose:**

- 338 • A foreign policy of pre-emptive, unilateral war.
- 339 • Domestic companies' engaging in practices abroad that would be

340 prohibited at home, including but not limited to environmental
341 damage, resource exhaustion, and exploitive labor practices
342 • Sending jobs offshore when the salaries for those jobs are paid
343 fully or in part with United States taxpayers' money
344 • Our nation's membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO)
345 and participation in agreements and treaties with that body
346 • Perpetuation of common market agreements such as NAFTA and
347 CAFTA, as now written, because they undermine constitutional
348 powers of federal and state government and fail to promote human
349 rights, labor rights, and environmental protection worldwide.

350

351

352 **GOVERNMENT AND THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

353

354 Teamwork between citizens and their government is the most effective and
355 efficient means of achieving our common goals.

356

357 **We believe that:**

- 358 • Government is a powerful tool for change. It must be utilized, not
359 derided.
- 360 • To be effective, government must be accountable and transparent,
361 equally accessible to all, and must strive never to lose the public
362 trust. We believe in government that makes a positive difference
363 in everyday life.
- 364 • Government should affirm freedom and liberty, not deny them
365 based upon popularity or majority opinion. The Democratic Party
366 affirms equality, justice, and liberty. We carry the moral authority
367 to stand as the guardian of government.
- 368 • Our platform is not “a litmus test.” It is a reflection of the values we
369 seek in those who hold public office. It is a reaffirmation of the
370 democratic belief in the empowerment of all individuals, regardless
371 of their social or economic standing. It is an agenda for action, for
372 it is we, the people, who ultimately decide who will hold the reigns
373 of our government.

374

375 **We urge** our elected officials and candidates to keep faith with our
376 platform.

377

378

379 **GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL REFORM**

380

381 Elections must be trustworthy, verifiable, and subject to audit; they must be
382 fair and open to everyone. Elections are the means by which we hire our

383government.

384

385**We believe that:**

- 386 • Money should not be the deciding factor in elections.
- 387 • Public financing of campaigns is the most effective means of
388 fostering participation.
- 389 • The current emphasis on money in politics fosters skepticism and
390 cynicism.
- 391 • Political reform will engage and empower more people than ever
392 before.
- 393 • All citizens, including felons who have completed their sentence,
394 have an inherent right to participate in the hiring of their
395 government.
- 396

397**HEALTHCARE**

398

399Access to high quality healthcare and nurture should be available to every
400person.

401

402**We believe that:**

- 403 • All people should be afforded the dignity of proper, complete, and
404 essential healthcare, both mental and medical, including dental
405 and vision.
- 406 • Drug and alcohol dependence is an illness (not a crime) and
407 should be part of health coverage.
- 408 • Preventative healthcare has the greatest personal and economic
409 benefits.
- 410 • All government-funded research should be reflected in lower
411 prescription prices and disease prevention costs.
- 412

413**We support:**

- 414 • A strong “Patient’s Bill of Rights.”
- 415 • Parity of mental and physical health coverage.
- 416 • Creation of a single-payer/universal, publicly funded, not-for-profit,
417 comprehensive healthcare system preserving consumer choice.
- 418 • Amending the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit to permit access
419 to generic and other cost-effective drugs.
- 420 • Complete healthcare for veterans wounded in action, including
421 injuries both physical and mental, and all veterans who lack funds
422 for proper care.
- 423 • Publicly funded healthcare for the working poor, underemployed,

- 424 and unemployed who regularly lack access to healthcare.
425 • Healthcare for children and elders who frequently lack basic health
426 care.
427 • Educating the public on childcare, eldercare, nutrition, and living a
428 healthful lifestyle that results in personal, community, and
429 economic benefits.
430 • A person's right to choose or refuse medical procedures.
431 • Stem cell research for cures for neurological and hereditary
432 diseases, including embryonic stem cell research.
433

434**We oppose:**

- 435 • Governmental control of family planning services and
436 governmental failure to provide access to all.
437 • Government, HMOs, insurance companies, and any others who
438 would make medical records become public records.
439 • Discrimination against healthcare coverage based upon pre-
440 existing conditions, disabilities, or socio-economic conditions.
441 • Pharmaceutical companies' overcharging United States taxpayers
442 above what they charge other industrialized countries.
443
444

445**HUMAN RIGHTS**

446
447Every person is entitled to equal dignity and respect. Human rights are
448bestowed by the condition of being human any place in the world.
449

450**We believe in:**

- 451 • The *Four Freedoms of Human Rights*: Freedom from Fear,
452 Freedom of Religious Belief, Freedom from Want, and Freedom to
453 Choose where to live or travel. Included in the concept of "Want"
454 are these: shelter appropriate to climate, clothing, clean water and
455 healthful food, basic medical care, basic education, and the right
456 to be paid equitably for one's labor.
457 • The right of all people in various facilities, including those confined
458 in jails or prisons, to enjoy basic human rights.
459 • Women's rights are human rights.
460 • Children's rights are human rights.
461 • All individuals must have control over their own bodies.
462 • Protection from rape and torture.
463 • Providing aid in time of famine and disaster.
464 • Providing protection from genocide.
465 • Enforcing the Geneva Conventions in handling and treatment of all

466 enemy combatants.

467

468 **IMMIGRATION**

469

470 In agreement with the Washington State Democratic Party Platform of
471 2004, we affirm that migrant workers deserve safe and adequate housing,
472 medical care, education, and sanitary facilities.

473

474 **We support challenging any legislation that:**

- 475 • Declares English as the official language of the United States;
- 476 • Disregards cultural pluralism;
- 477 • Deprives those in need of education, social services, and
478 employment access to these resources.

479

480 **We oppose** any immigration policy that denies civil and/or human rights or
481 educational opportunities for immigrants and their children, regardless of
482 their immigration status.

483

484

485 **INDIAN TRIBES, TREATIES, AND EDUCATION**

486

487 Treaties made between sovereign Indian nations and the United States
488 Government must be upheld and preserved.

489

490 **We believe that:**

- 491 • Educational success for all children is fundamental to the integrity
492 of a democratic society.
- 493 • Educating children is complex, serious, and must be done in a
494 mindful and intentional manner.
- 495 • Education policy can have unintended, negative consequences for
496 children, and it is our moral obligation to ensure that no harm is
497 done.
- 498 • Curriculum and teaching methods in Indian education must honor
499 the cultural heritage of Indian tribes.

500

501 **We recognize that:**

- 502 • Native American children are disproportionately failing and
503 dropping out in the current education system.
- 504 • The expertise of Native American leaders and cultural experts is
505 needed to ensure a quality education for all Native American
506 children.
- 507 • There is little or no research on the impact of current education

508 policy and practice on Native American children.

509

510**We support:**

511 • Cooperation and collaboration for co-governance between
512 Washington State Education Policy Makers and Tribal Leaders of
513 Washington State.

514 • The development of a policy review process designed to assess
515 the long-term impacts of all education policy on Native American
516 students before that policy can be enacted into law.

517

518**We oppose:**

519 • The implementation of Washington State Early Learning
520 Benchmarks and any State educational standards not inclusive of
521 Native American education needs as determined by Tribal Leaders
522 of Washington State.

523 • The use of any single assessment to make major education
524 decisions.

525

526

527**LABOR AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE**

528

529Economic justice for working people is essential for the realization of a
530democratic society and a strong economy. Universal economic justice is
531the foundation upon which healthy families, healthy communities, and a
532free and prosperous nation rests.

533

534**We believe that:**

535 • American workers are dedicated, industrious, and competitive and,
536 therefore, deserve respect and a livable wage.

537

538 • American workers will be handicapped by the astronomical federal
539 deficit.

540 • American workers should have a safe and harassment-free work
541 environment.

542 • American workers must have the right to organize and bargain
543 collectively in order to have livable wages.

544 • American workers need to have healthcare benefits and a pension
545 plan to promote values of importance to families.

546 • American workers need to have better access to education and
547 training in order to be competitive in a world market of jobs.

548 • Veterans, women, people of color, people with disabilities, and
549 sexual minorities' need to earn equal pay for equivalent work and

550 equal pay for work of comparable value.

551

552**We support:**

- 553 • Prevailing wage laws for work under government contracts to
- 554 protect family income and to provide a good tax base.
- 555 • “Best Value Contractor” policies and “Fair Contracting”
- 556 enforcement on public works jobs.
- 557 • Economic development laws to ensure benefits for local
- 558 communities.
- 559 • Continued unemployment insurance and workers’ compensation.
- 560 • Jobs that include medical benefits for employees and their
- 561 families.
- 562 • Protection of the legal right to organize into unions to bargain
- 563 collectively for industrial, agricultural, and professional workers.
- 564 • ~~Labor and management regulation of workers’ pensions.~~
- 565 • Adequately paid employees, working in safe and productive
- 566 conditions.
- 567 • Competitive and commensurate wages for all workers, whether
- 568 they are private-sector or state and local government employees.
- 569 • Healthcare for employees of corporations with more than 1,000
- 570 employees until single-payer/universal healthcare is available to
- 571 all.
- 572 • Tax cuts for the middle class and tax credits for those who live in
- 573 poverty, both of which will stimulate the economy and create jobs.
- 574 • Equally represented labor and management boards to regulate
- 575 and protect worker’s pensions.
- 576

577**We oppose:**

- 578 • Exploitation of migrant, temporary, and contract workers.
- 579 • Taxing workers at a higher rate than the rate of the capital gains
- 580 tax.
- 581 • Corporate welfare at the expense of public welfare.
- 582 • Tax cuts that do not stimulate the economy or create jobs,
- 583 especially tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans.
- 584 • Excessive corporate profits and executive stock options taken from
- 585 the wages, healthcare benefits, and pensions of workers.
- 586 • Corporations’ using mergers and bankruptcy courts to appropriate
- 587 workers’ pensions, which were part of a negotiated wage package.
- 588 • The failure of corporations to fund pension liabilities.
- 589 • Allowing tax advantages to companies that outsource American

- 590 jobs.
- 591 • The “offshoring” of corporate headquarters for tax breaks or
- 592 benefits.
- 593 • The outsourcing of government jobs and the privatization of public
- 594 government services.
- 595 • Foreign trade agreements that put the interests of corporations
- 596 above the rights of workers.
- 597 • Foreign trade agreements that put the interests of a corporation
- 598 above the rights of local governments.
- 599

600 **LAND USE**

601

602 The air, water, and land must be protected for current and future

603 generations.

604

605 **We believe in a land use policy that:**

- 606 • Creates attractive, livable communities with a range of housing.
- 607 • Provides options in transportation.
- 608 • Prevents the pollution of critical areas and habitats.
- 609 • Maintains a sustainable food system by preserving farmland
- 610 • Regulates growth on a regional scale by strengthening existing
- 611 urban hubs, and preserving and supporting existing rural areas
- 612 and natural resources.
- 613 • Saves taxes by utilizing, wherever possible, existing
- 614 infrastructures, rather than building new ones, in accordance with
- 615 “highest and best use” principles.
- 616 • Preserves a tax base adequate to support a plethora of social
- 617 services.
- 618 • Creates jobs for the overwhelming majority of low income and
- 619 minority residents who live in urban areas.
- 620

621 **We support:**

- 622 • Maintaining a vital balance among the three major land use
- 623 categories of “urban, rural, and natural resources.”
- 624 • Confining the major infrastructure developments such as water,
- 625 sewage utilities and transportation to dense urban cores that
- 626 contain the vast majority of businesses and residences.
- 627 • Mitigation fees sufficient to ensure that that future infrastructure
- 628 costs are not borne by the general public, but are borne by
- 629 developers.
- 630 • Use of the best available science by the state, counties, and cities

- 631 to develop policies and regulations to protect the functions and
632 values of critical areas such as streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands,
633 and aquifers.
- 634 • Preserving the aesthetic qualities and ecological habitats of the
635 shorelines of Puget Sound, as well as of our rivers, streams, and
636 lakes, making them accessible to the public.
 - 637 • Purchasing and retiring in perpetuity development rights and
638 conservation easements by local governments or non-profit
639 organizations.
 - 640 • Incorporating environmental values and public participation into
641 decision-making by public agencies.
- 642

643 **We oppose** constructing developments known as “fully contained
644 communities” that fail to live up to what the name implies.

645

646

647 **MEDIA REFORM**

648

649 Freedom of the press and public access to diverse media are prerequisites
650 for a functioning democracy in which the broadcast airwaves are owned in
651 common by the public and should be managed to serve the public interest.
652

653 **We believe that:**

- 654 • Adherence to the highest journalistic principles is a public trust that
655 must not be broken.
- 656 • The U. S. Constitution guarantees “Freedom of Speech and Freedom
657 of the Press.”

658

659 **We support:**

- 660 • A diversity of media that is not threatened by further consolidation of
661 media ownership in an already highly concentrated market.
- 662 • The expansion of minority ownership of broadcast media outlets as a
663 key driver of diversity in news and cultural programming.
- 664 • Local accountability and content diversity and greater access to the
665 airwaves for local artists, community groups, and public officials, all of
666 which could be achieved with an increase in community based
667 broadband.
- 668 • Regulations that will promote fair competition, improve the quality of
669 local media coverage, increase local accountability, increase the
670 diversity of content and voices, and improve the amount and quality
671 of news coverage in broadcast and print media across the country.
- 672 • Congressional and FCC oversight and protection of content diversity

673 and press freedom by limiting the number of broadcast stations that
674 one owner may hold.

- 675 • Public FCC and Congressional hearings scheduled by the Localism
676 Task Force to promote understanding of how media consolidation has
677 adversely affected communities all across the country.
- 678 • Net neutrality to ensure free access to the users' choice of content
679 rather than corporate control of content and fees for Internet use.
- 680 • A secure Internet, free from corporate control of private information.
- 681 • Community-based broadband.
- 682 • Workplace rights for workers in corporate media monopolies like
683 Comcast and Time-Warner.
- 684 • Local control of contractual agreements with media providers.
- 685 • America's digital commons.
- 686 • The shielding of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting from political
687 influence. Political appointees to the CPB must not manipulate the
688 content provided by public broadcasters.
- 689 • Vigorous, independent local public broadcasting stations, responsive
690 to the needs of the local communities and collectively strong enough
691 to meet the needs of a national audience.
- 692 • A public broadcasting system that services all sectors of American
693 society with news and cultural programming, especially those
694 underserved by the commercial media.
- 695 • Adequate funding of public broadcasting so that the best of vital
696 debates and issues will not be left out of the public conversation but
697 will include issues of marginalized communities in particular.
- 698 • Full funding by the Congress for the costs of digital transition so that
699 local stations (especially those in rural areas) will not have to cease
700 operation.

701

702 **We oppose:**

- 703 • Monopoly control of “the digital commons.”
- 704 • Unreasonable rate increases.
- 705 • Outrageous salaries for corporate media executives who hold power
706 and control over our government, the Federal Communication
707 Commission, and even our public broadcasting stations.

708

709

710 **MILITARY**

711

712 The core task of the U. S. Military is to “provide for the common defense.”

713 U. S. taxpayers pay vast sums of money to the Congressional-Military-

714Industrial Complex to assure that our military forces can defeat any and all
715foreign aggressors. Some leaders are tempted to use this power for
716private purposes (domestic spying on opponents, protection for their
717commercial adventures, and other abuses). The U. S. Constitution
718provides for checks and balances, but it is up to citizens (and specifically,
719civilians) to make those checks and balances work.

720

721**We support:**

- 722 • A powerful, well-trained, and well-equipped military, sufficient to
723 the task of common defense against external enemies.
- 724 • U. S. Representatives and Senators who assure that our military
725 is, in fact, used for the common defense and not for commercial
726 adventures or spying on political opponents.
- 727 • Men and women in active military service, providing them with
728 adequate leadership and sufficient materiel.
- 729 • Men and women in discharged or retired status, with retirement
730 benefits and medical care.
- 731 • The Geneva Conventions, the core of international humanitarian
732 law.

733**We oppose:**

- 734 • The use of mercenaries (privately funded military forces).
- 735 • The use of the military for domestic control.
- 736 • The use of the military for non-defense, external purposes.
- 737 • The use of the Congressional-Military-Industrial Complex to enrich
738 cronies beyond the needs of defense.
- 739 • The use of secrecy, “PsyOps” (psychological operations), and
740 disinformation campaigns that leave the U. S. citizenry less
741 informed than the rest of the world.
- 742 • Any cuts in veterans’ benefits.
- 743 • The use of the National Guard for any purposes other than
744 defense or natural disasters. They must remain within their state,
745 under the direction and authority of their governor.
- 746 • Congressional acceptance of known, but “rubber-stamped,”
747 military budgets or (worse) of totally hidden budgets.
- 748 • The government’s breaking of the promise made to military
749 personnel – that their pensions and health care would always be
750 provided.
- 751 • The use of a military budget for pork barrel spending.
- 752 • The use of the military for pre-emptive strikes without Congress’s
753 declaring war or the President’s declaring a state of imminent
754 danger.

- 755 • Military recruitment on campuses of public high schools and
756 colleges and the denial or reduction of federal funding for schools
757 that ban military recruiters.
758 • The use of depleted uranium ammunition in the Straits of Juan de
759 Fuca or anywhere else in the world.
760 • The use of active sonar in Puget Sound of Washington waters.
761

762 **TRANSPORTATION**

763

764 A transportation system should be efficient, economical, and safe, as well
765 as friendly to the environment and conducive to a good quality of life. Such
766 a system should be equitably funded and developed with wide public
767 participation.

768

769 **We support:**

- 770 • Public participation at all stages in the development of the
771 transportation system
772 • A transportation funding scheme that is adequate, equitable, and
773 rational.
774 • The use of energy that is environmentally friendly.
775 • The widest possible use of the most energy efficient vehicles.
776 • Growth management plans that aid the development of mass transit.
777 • Choice in the modes of transportation offered.
778 • Improvements in facilities for non-motorized modes of transportation,
779 including sidewalks, bicycle paths, and wheelchair ramps.
780 • Measures that make travel as safe as possible for non-motorized, as
781 well as motorized, modes of transportation.
782

783 **We oppose** major airport expansion without public input, review, and vote.

23

Footnotes

24

25 “the commons” -- those features of the earth and its atmosphere that are held in common by the inhabitants of
26the earth: air, water, the seas, the airwaves, and similar forms of existence.

27

28ⁱⁱ legal fictions -- concepts that are created only under the law. Legal fictions are artificial entities. As an
29example, slavery was a legal fiction that was abolished at the end of the War Between the States in 1865.
30Corporate personhood is a legal fiction that was born into jurisprudence in 1886 when the U. S. Supreme Court
31dubiously declared corporations to be persons under the Fourteenth Amendment, a Civil Rights amendment
32designed to safeguard newly emancipated Blacks from unfair treatment by the government. In *Santa Clara*
33*County v. Southern Pacific Railroad*, the head note declared corporations to be persons, yet the text of the
34opinion contains no analysis discussing the legitimacy of this ruling. In subsequent cases (in which the Court
35has expanded the number of amendments under which corporations can be protected) the only analysis of the
36merits of “corporate personhood” has been in the dissenting opinions. The Supreme Court has extended
37corporate personhood to give corporations rights under the First, Fourth, and Fifth amendments. For further
38information, please see these websites : <www.POCLAD.org> and <www.SoundDemocracy.org> and
39<www.wilpf.org>.

40

41ⁱⁱⁱ see “the commons,” above.