



- 313 • The use of the federal military for domestic control.
- 314 • The use of secrecy and disinformation campaigns.
- 315 • Any cuts in veterans' benefits.
- 316 • The use of the National Guard for any purposes other than
- 317 defense or natural disasters. They must remain within their state,
- 318 under the direction and authority of their governor.
- 319 • The government's breaking of the promise made to military
- 320 personnel – that their pensions and health care would always be
- 321 provided.
- 322 • The use of a military budget for pork barrel spending.
- 323 • The unlawful use of our military.
- 324 • The use of depleted uranium ammunition.
- 325 • The use of active sonar in Puget Sound of Washington waters.

326

TRADE

328 Negotiating fair trade agreements with all willing countries, particularly
329 when these agreements include provisions to encourage sustainable
330 agriculture and manufacturing practices; protect the environment; and
331 promote health, safety, and worker rights.

332

TRANSPORTATION

334 A transportation system should be efficient, economical, and safe, as well
335 as friendly to the environment and conducive to a good quality of life.

336

We support:

- 338 • Public participation at all stages in the development of the
- 339 transportation system.
- 340 • Transportation funding that is adequate, equitable, and rational.
- 341 • The use of fuel that is environmentally friendly.
- 342 • Improvements in facilities for non-motorized modes of transportation,
- 343 including sidewalks, bicycle paths, and wheelchair ramps.

344

We oppose:

- 346 • Major airport expansion without public input, review, and vote.

347

TRIBES AND TREATIES

349 Treaties made between sovereign Indian nations and the United States
350 Government must be upheld and preserved, as must compacts between
351 Washington State and the tribes.

Approved by the body April 13, 2008 at the Snohomish County Convention
Michele Meaker Pin, Recording Secretary

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We believe in:

- Attractive, livable communities with a range of housing.
- Public transportation.
- A sustainable food system and preserving farmland.
- Growth on a regional scale by strengthening existing urban hubs, providing appropriate infrastructure, and preserving and supporting existing rural areas and natural resources.

We support:

- Maintaining a vital balance among the three major land use categories of “urban, rural, and natural resources.”
- Preserving the aesthetic qualities and ecological habitats of the shorelines of Puget Sound, as well as of our rivers, streams, and lakes, making them accessible to the public.

We oppose:

- Constructing developments known as “fully contained communities” that fail to live up to what the name implies.

MILITARY

Our military must be adequate to provide for the common defense, while avoiding abuses of power.

We support:

- A powerful, well-trained, and well-equipped military, sufficient to the task of common defense against external enemies.
- Complete healthcare for veterans wounded in action, including injuries both physical and mental, and all veterans who lack funds for proper care.
- U. S. Representatives and Senators who assure that our military is, in fact, used for the common defense and not for commercial adventures or spying on political opponents.
- Men and women in active military service, providing them with adequate leadership and sufficient materiel.
- Men and women in discharged or retired status, with retirement benefits and medical care.
- The re-instatement of the Geneva Conventions, the core of international humanitarian law.

We oppose:

- The use of mercenaries. (Privately funded military forces).

- 230 • Veterans, women, people of color, people with disabilities, and
231 sexual minorities’ need to earn equal pay for equivalent work as
232 well as equal pay for work of comparable value.
233

234 **We support:**

- 235 • Prevailing wage laws for work under government contracts to
236 protect family income and to provide a good tax base.
237 • “Best Value Contractor” policies and “Fair Contracting” for public
238 works jobs.
239 • Economic development laws to ensure benefits for local
240 communities.
241 • Unemployment insurance and workers’ compensation.
242 • Jobs that include medical benefits for employees and their
243 families.
244 • Labor and management regulation of workers' pensions.
245 • Safe working conditions.
246 • Tax cuts for the middle class and tax credits for those who live
247 near the poverty level.
248

249 **We oppose:**

- 250 • Exploitation of migrant, temporary and contract workers.
251 • Taxing workers at a higher rate than the rate of the capital gains
252 tax.
253 • Corporate welfare at the expense of public welfare.
254 • Excessive corporate profits and executive stock options.
255 • Corporations’ using mergers and bankruptcy courts to appropriate
256 workers’ pensions.
257 • Allowing tax advantages to companies that outsource American
258 jobs.
259 • The “off shoring” of corporate headquarters for tax breaks or
260 benefits.
261 • The outsourcing of government jobs and the privatization of public
262 government services.
263 • Foreign trade agreements that put the interests of corporations
264 above the rights of workers.
265 • Foreign trade agreements that overrule the rights of local
266 governments.
267

268 **LAND USE**

269 The air, water, and land must be protected for current and future
270 generations.

188 **We believe that:**

- 189 • Complete, healthcare includes mental, medical, dental and vision.
- 190 • Drug and alcohol dependence, along with other addictions, are
- 191 illnesses (not crimes) and should be part of health coverage.
- 192 • Preventative healthcare has the greatest personal and economic
- 193 benefits.
- 194 • All government-funded research should be reflected in lower
- 195 prescription prices and disease prevention costs.
- 196 • We support a person's right to choose or refuse medical
- 197 procedures.
- 198 • We support the privacy of medical records.

199
200 **HUMAN RIGHTS**

201 Every person is entitled to equal dignity and respect.

202
203 **We believe in:**

- 204 • The *Four Freedoms of Human Rights*: Freedom from Fear,
- 205 Freedom of Religious Belief, Freedom from Want, and Freedom to
- 206 Choose where to live or travel.

207
208 **IMMIGRATION**

209 We affirm that migrant workers deserve safe and adequate housing,

210 medical care, education, and sanitary facilities.

211
212 **We oppose:**

- 213 • Immigration policy that denies civil and/or human rights or
- 214 educational opportunities for immigrants and their children,
- 215 regardless of their immigration status.

216
217 **LABOR AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE**

218 Universal economic justice is the foundation upon which healthy families,

219 healthy communities, and a free and prosperous nation rests.

220
221 **We believe that:**

- 222 • American workers are dedicated, industrious, and competitive and,
- 223 therefore, deserve respect and a livable wage.
- 224 • American workers should have a safe and harassment-free work
- 225 environment.
- 226 • American workers must have the right to organize and bargain
- 227 collectively in order to have livable wages.
- 228 • American workers need to have better access to training in order
- 229 to be competitive in a world market of jobs.

- 146 traditional higher education.
147 • Adequate compensation for all school personnel, certificated
148 and classified should be provided.
149

150 **ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY**

151 We must establish and enforce policies and regulations to protect and
152 preserve the earth and its resources.
153

154 **We support:**

- 155 • Policies and energy sources that protect and enhance the
156 Biosphere.
157

158 **We oppose:**

- 159 • Reversing or weakening of EPA policies and regulations that were
160 in effect in 2000.
161

162 **GOVERNMENT AND THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

163 Teamwork between citizens and their government is the most effective and
164 efficient means of achieving our common goals.
165

166 **We believe that:**

- 167 • Government is a powerful tool for change.
168 • To be effective, government must be accountable, transparent,
169 and equally accessible to all. The Democratic Party affirms
170 equality, justice, and liberty.
171 • Our platform is a reflection of the values we seek in those who
172 hold public office. It is a reaffirmation of the democratic belief in
173 the empowerment of all individuals, regardless of their social or
174 economic standing.
175

176 **GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL REFORM**

177 Elections must be trustworthy, verifiable, and subject to audit.
178

179 **We believe that:**

- 180 • Public financing of campaigns is the most effective means of
181 fostering participation.
182 • All citizens, including felons who have completed their sentence,
183 have an inherent right to participate in elections.
184

185 **HEALTHCARE**

186 Access to high quality healthcare and proper nutrition should be available
187 to every person.

104 **We support:**

- 105 • The revocation of charters of corporations that violate our laws.
- 106 • A government that places the needs of the people of the United
- 107 States of America above those of corporations.
- 108 • The protection of “the commons”ⁱ so that future generations will be
- 109 able to thrive.
- 110 • Transparency in corporate accounting.
- 111 • Tax credits and investment support for small business.

112
113 **We oppose:**

- 114 • Undue influence by corporations over the government.

115
116 **CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

117 The government has a basic responsibility to prevent crime and to alleviate

118 the social and economic conditions that contribute to crime.

119
120 **EDUCATION**

121 Providing for excellence in the delivery and content of public education is

122 the paramount duty of our state government

123
124 **We believe that:**

- 125 • Children need appropriate and adequate physical activity and
- 126 unstructured time during the school day.
- 127 • Our public education system shall encourage parental
- 128 participation in their children’s school experience.
- 129 • Children need age-appropriate instruction using medically
- 130 accurate information about human growth and development
- 131 and sexuality.
- 132 • Children need age-appropriate instruction regarding the child
- 133 abuse and the dangers of drug use.
- 134 • Our schools should foster good citizenship, healthy decision-
- 135 making, respect, empathy, and an understanding of how to
- 136 practice non-violent conflict resolution.
- 137 • All schools should be safe, secure, nurturing and free of
- 138 harassment.
- 139 • The ratio of students to certificated and classified classroom
- 140 personnel should promote effective learning.
- 141 • Public education should be kept under full public control.
- 142 • A strong economy requires a well-trained workforce. Students
- 143 of all ages should have access to high quality, continued
- 144 education and career training, including school to work
- 145 partnerships and apprenticeship programs, in addition to

62 **AGRICULTURE**

63 Sound agricultural practices are essential to the economic health and
64 sustainability of our region.

65
66 **We believe that:**

- 67 • Efforts to preserve viable farmland must be continued and intensified.
- 68 • The sale and consumption of locally grown products should be
69 encouraged whenever possible by government at all levels.
- 70 • Organic farming methods are better for the environment than are
71 traditional practices.

72
73 **CIVIL RIGHTS**

74 The foundation and strength of our democracy rest on the stated rights and
75 responsibilities set forth in the U. S. and Washington States' Constitution

76
77 **We believe that:**

- 78 • The equal separation of powers among the Legislative, Judicial and
79 Executive Branches of government must be maintained.
- 80 • Individual citizens' rights and liberties must be protected.
- 81 • There must be a strict separation between church and state in a
82 secular government.

83
84 **We support and defend:**

- 85 • A woman's right to choose, as protected by *Roe v. Wade* and the
86 *Washington State Reproductive Freedom Act*.
- 87 • The enactment of laws providing the right to die with dignity.

88
89 **We demand:**

- 90 • The right to confidentiality of medical records and genetic information,

91
92 **We oppose:**

- 93 • Discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodation,
94 foster care and adoption proceedings, healthcare, military service,
95 insurance, credit , licensing, or education by any entity based upon
96 race, religion, age, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, gender
97 identity, political affiliation, disability, or national origin.

98
99 **CORPORATE POWER**

100 Some corporations exercise undue influence in the United States of
101 America, violating the fundamental democratic principle of the "consent of
102 the governed."

103

- 43 • **Labor and Economic Justice:** Economic justice is required for a
44 democratic society and a strong economy.
- 45
- 46 • **Land Use:** Air, land, and water must be protected for future
47 generations.
- 48
- 49 • **Military:** Our military must be adequate to provide for the common
50 defense, while avoiding abuses of power.
- 51
- 52 • **Trade:** We will negotiate Fair Trade agreements with all willing
53 countries.
- 54
- 55 • **Transportation:** A system of transportation needs to be efficient,
56 economical, safe, and environmentally sound with adequate funding
57 and good management.
- 58
- 59 • **Tribes, Treaties, and Education:** Treaties made between sovereign
60 nations and the U. S. Government must be upheld and preserved and
61 tribal education must become a high priority.

3
4 **2008 Adopted Platform -- Summary**
5

6 **Snohomish County Democrats believe that:**
7

- 8 • **Agriculture:** Sound agricultural practices are essential to the
9 economic health and sustainability of our region.
- 10
- 11 • **Civil Rights:** The foundation and strength of our democracy rests
12 upon the rights and responsibilities set forth in the Constitution, the
13 Bill of Rights and other laws.
- 14
- 15 • **Corporate Power:** Some corporations exercise undue influence in
16 the United States of America, violating the fundamental democratic
17 principle of the “consent of the governed”.
- 18
- 19 • **Crime and Criminal Justice:** The government has a basic
20 responsibility to prevent crime and to alleviate the social and
21 economic conditions that contribute to crime.
- 22
- 23 • **Education:** Providing for excellence in the content and delivery of
24 public education is the paramount duty of our State Government.
- 25
- 26 • **Environment and Energy:** We must establish and enforce policies
27 and regulations to protect and preserve the earth and its resources.
- 28
- 29 • **Government and the Democratic Party:** Citizens and government
30 must work as an effective team to achieve worthwhile goals.
- 31
- 32 • **Government and Political Reform:** Our system of elections must
33 be open, trustworthy, and accessible to all eligible voters.
- 34
- 35 • **Healthcare:** Access to high quality healthcare should be available to
36 every person.
- 37
- 38 • **Human Rights:** Human rights belong to every person regardless of
39 status or location.
- 40
- 41 • **Immigration:** Immigration policies must not deny civil or human
42 rights to any immigrants or their children.