...to choose representatives and policies that support the organizations that are fighting for (much-needed) social change.

Even if I can't completely get behind any of the candidates in this year’s election, I still know it's important to cast my ballot.

-Isabell, college student

...so that my voice is counted.

-Emiko, professor

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2020 Voter Guide

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...as an undocumented person, I am ineligible to vote, so I encourage others to vote. I encourage others to vote to lend their voices to those who are unable to vote due to systemic barriers. I encourage others to vote with their values and create the change they want to see for themselves, their loved ones, and their community.

-Omar, Seattle

...because I want my representatives and policies to embody compassion and respect for all.

I vote because I care what happens to my community.

Sierra, Seattle
# Contents

Dear Voter.................................................. 3  
Our Questions.......................................... 4  
Districts Featured in this Guide............................. 5  
Know Your Voting Rights!................................. 7  
VOTER F.A.Q............................................. 9  
R-90 and ESJR-8212................................. 11  
Glossary of Dog-Whistle Terms......................... 12  
Congressional Reponses............................... 13  
Congressional District 1............................. 14  
Congressional District 2............................. 15  
Congressional District 3............................. 16  
Congressional District 4............................. 16  
Congressional District 5............................. 17  
Congressional District 6............................. 17  
Congressional District 7............................. 18  
Congressional District 8............................. 19  
Congressional District 9............................. 20  
Congressional District 10........................... 22  
Legislative Reponses.................................. 25  
Governorship............................................ 26  
King County : District 5............................ 27  
King County : District 30........................... 29  
King County : District 47........................... 32  
Pierce County : District 27.......................... 33  
Pierce County : District 28.......................... 37  
Pierce County : District 29.......................... 40  
Snohomish County : District 21.................. 42  
Snohomish County : District 44.................. 45  
Yakima County : District 14...................... 47  
Yakima County : District 15...................... 48  
Stay Involved........................................... 49
Dear Voter

Let’s just say it: 2020 has been unsparingly difficult. A global pandemic, a severe economic down turn, the devastating continued attacks on Black life, raging wildfires and heavy smoke fueled by climate change – the list is long.

And yet, in this dark moment in American history, there is still room for hope. In this moment, we have a real opportunity to shape our economic recovery. We are at a critical moment where we can choose a new and bold path in our state – one that ensures that those hit hardest by poverty, racism, the pandemic, and wildfires are centered, consulted, listened to, and valued.

This opportunity starts now as you prepare to vote. In the 2020 election, voters will have a chance to vote for candidates who can use this unprecedented moment to right historic wrongs and bring about economic and racial justice for our communities.

This guide is meant to support your decision-making on who deserves your vote. This year, we have done things a little differently; we have focused this voter guide on our state’s recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. This means we targeted candidates running for office in the parts of the state hit hardest by COVID-19: South & East King County, Pierce County, Snohomish County, and Yakima County. We also asked candidates to answer questions about how they’d support the state’s recovery, including questions about health care, the safety net, racial justice, consumer debt, and more. In addition, we included our endorsements on the statewide initiatives that will appear on the ballot.

If you have been feeling frightened, frustrated, or simply saddened by our current political climate, now is the time to turn those feelings into action. Your vote is your voice—use it to speak up in support of or against things you see happening in your community. Our votes push lawmakers to pass laws that bolster our ability to prosper, meet basic needs, and provide a better future for our families and communities.

It’s time to organize. It’s time to take action. It’s time to vote.

In Solidarity,

Marcy Bowers
Executive Director

Below are the six questions we asked candidates to respond to.

1. Throughout the last few months of the pandemic, we’ve seen how social safety net programs, such as TANF, ABD, and HEN, act as critical lifelines during times of crisis. How will you strengthen these services that provide a safety net for low-income Washingtonians and their families?

2. Due to the economic impact of COVID-19 Washington state is currently facing a $8.8 billion budget shortfall over the next four years. How will you address the state’s budget shortfall, while also ensuring that housing, education, transit, emergency assistance, and other essential services remain funded?

3. The direct cash assistance offered by the CARES Act, such as stimulus checks and additional unemployment benefits, has been shown to stave off pandemic-induced poverty for millions of Americans. However, the pandemic isn’t over and cases in Washington state are currently on the rise. If elected, what statewide anti-poverty measures would you support?

4. Nationally, the pandemic has highlighted substantial inequities in healthcare access experienced by people living on low incomes and communities of color. Even before the pandemic, community members in Washington state consistently reported that they rarely had access to routine dental care, which further affected their health and wellbeing. How would you address the inequitable accessibility of dental care— and healthcare more broadly—in our state?

5. The movement for Black lives has ignited action around examining and dismantling institutions that uphold racism and anti-Black violence. Activists have demanded that state and local governments defund the police and redistribute that funding to other community services. If elected, how would you respond to these calls for action?

6. Many households in our state have been hit hard by the COVID-19 economic downturn. This is especially true for low-income families and families of color, who, with limited savings or household wealth to fall back on, may have to turn other sources of expensive credit to pay for basic needs. How would you protect families from predatory debt collection and garnishment practices?
Washington state has 10 congressional districts. We sent our questionnaire to all the candidates running for office in all 10 districts.

State Legislative Districts

Washington state has a total of 49 legislative districts, all of which have candidates running for election. However, for the purposes of this guide, we zeroed in on the 4 counties hit hardest by COVID-19 (Yakima, Pierce, King, and Snohomish Counties). From there, we identified 2-3 districts within each county with the highest levels of poverty, finalizing our guide to these 10 legislative districts.

Congressional Districts

Washington state has 10 congressional districts. We sent our questionnaire to all the candidates running for office in all 10 districts.

King County: Districts 5, 30, 47
Pierce County: Districts 27, 28, 29
Snohomish County: Districts 21, 44
Yakima County: Districts 14, 15
Know Your Voting Rights!

To vote in this election, you must be:

☑ A citizen of the United States
☑ 18 years of age or older
☑ A resident of Washington State
☑ A registered voter

How to Vote in Washington

Washington State votes by mail.

Voting by mail is the easiest and most accessible choice for many people. You do not need a stamp to return your ballot. Simply drop it in the closest U.S Postal Service mail box. Your ballot must be postmarked by Election Day—November 3, 2020. However, due to delays in service the Postal Service is experiencing this year, we recommend you postmark it at least a week earlier, if possible. You can also vote by putting your ballot in a drop box by 8pm on Election Day (see map on the opposite page).

Ballots will be mailed to all registered voters on October 16. If you do not receive your ballot by this date, contact your County Auditor’s office for a new ballot.

Accessible Voting

Accessible voting centers provide voters the opportunity to vote privately and independently using an accessible voting unit. Accessible voting units are easy to use and elections staff is available to assist if needed. Accessible voting units offer lap paddles and sip-and-puff devices, as well as audio, and large and high-contrast text options.

These locations are open to all voters. Voters casting a ballot at an accessible voting center must either show a photo ID or sign a declaration. Acceptable forms of ID include: driver’s license, student ID, state-issued ID, employer ID, tribal ID, and passport. For locations, please contact your county elections office.

Provisional Ballot Usage

Provisional ballots are given to registered voters who want to vote but did not receive a ballot due to a record discrepancy with the County Auditor or Secretary of State. You can’t be denied the right to vote because of these errors if you are eligible and registered. In these cases, you will be given a provisional ballot to fill out and return.

Protecting the Vote

If you are eligible to vote per the requirements listed on page 4, and are not under the supervision of the Department of Corrections, you have a constitutionally protected right to cast a ballot in this election. Under no circumstances should you be turned away. However, historically disenfranchised voters remain the target of deceptive election practices and voter intimidation.

Know your voter rights and report any instances of:

❎ Voter harassment or intimidation
❎ Denying voters access to provisional ballots
❎ Efforts to have voters produce ID or citizenship proof when not required by law
❎ Disinformation campaigns, such as posting fliers in communities of color that give false information on voting requirements or procedures
❎ Excessive and unnecessary presence of uniformed law enforcement personnel at polling places or ballot drop box locations

You will never be asked to pay money to register to vote, cast a ballot, inquire about your eligibility, or update your address. Visit http://866ourvote.org/state/washington/ for more information.

If you believe your voting rights have been violated, call the Election Protection Hotline: (866) OUR-VOTE - (866) 687-8683.
Do I have to vote on everything on my ballot?
No! You are free to choose to vote on any combination of measures, candidates, and initiatives. For any candidate or issue that you might not be sure about, you may leave it blank. Your ballot will still be counted!

Do I have to pick a political party to vote?
No. In Washington state you are not required to state a party preference in order to vote.

What is an incumbent?
An incumbent candidate is the person who currently holds that office and is running for re-election. In this voter guide, we have marked each incumbent with an (I) next to their name.

What is the difference between Congress and the Legislature?
Congress is the federal, or national, law-making body that meets in Washington, D.C. Congress is made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives, often called simply “the House.” House Representatives are chosen by the citizens of Washington state to represent them and the areas where they live. These areas are called congressional districts. The number of districts a state has in the House depends on the population of the state, and in Washington, we have 10 congressional districts. The Legislature refers to the state’s law-making body. It is structured similarly to Congress, with a Senate and a House of Representatives. States are broken up into legislative districts (there are 49 legislative districts in Washington).

What is a Legislator? A State Senator? A State Representative?
The terms Legislator, State Senator, and State Representatives all refer to the people we elect to represent us in Congress and in the Legislature. In Congress, the Senate is composed of 2 senators from each state. There are currently 100 Senators and 435 Representatives. Senators serve 6 year terms and Representatives serve 2 year terms. At the state-level, in the Legislature, two State Representatives and one State Senator are elected from each district. State Representatives serve 2 year terms, and State Senators serve 4 year terms. Currently there are 49 Senators and 98 Representatives in Washington’s Legislature.

When will I get my ballot?
Your County Auditor will begin mailing ballots out to registered voters on October 16, 2020. If you have not received your ballot by October 23 please contact your County Auditor’s office.

I have a felony on my record. Can I vote?
Yes. If you were convicted of a crime in Washington State, you can register to vote again once you have completed parole and probation. If you were convicted in federal court or another state and have since moved to Washington, you are able to register as soon as you are no incarcerated.

What if I can’t vote?
You can participate in the civic process even if you are not able to vote. Much of the election work takes place before Election Day as our friends and neighbors gather to “get out the vote” and educate our communities about what will be on the ballot. Even if you can’t vote, helping engage those that can on the issues that are important to you is an important way that your voice can be heard. Regardless of your voting rights or citizenship status, elected officials are sent to Olympia or Washington D.C to represent all of us. No exceptions! You are still a constituent of those lawmakers. You can make a huge difference by reminding your friends and family of the importance of their vote.

Beyond Election Day, you can call your elected officials to tell them your thoughts on policies and laws they will be making throughout the year. Writing letters, meeting them in person, inviting them to community events, and attending rallies or protests will ensure your voice is heard by legislators during their term in office. Voting is just one part of being an engaged member of your community. Holding lawmakers accountable, voicing your opinion, and engaging your community can be done in a variety of ways!

Still have questions? Poverty Action is here to help!
Call us at 206-694-6794, email us at vote@povertyaction.org, or visit our website (www.povertyaction.org).
This election you won't just get the chance to vote for a President, federal leaders, state leaders, and elected officials for local offices. You'll also have the chance to vote yes or no on two ballot measures.

Referendum 90 is a measure which will allow Washingtonians to either approve or reject comprehensive sexual education in Washington's public schools.

Think of Referendum 90 as a second look at WA Senate Bill 5395, which was successfully passed in March. Senate Bill 5395 would have required schools to start offering "recurring instruction in human development and reproduction that is age-appropriate and inclusive of all students" by the start of the 2021-2022 school year. However, a coalition of Washingtonians were able to obtain the required number of signatures to oppose this bill. It is now being put on the ballot for Washingtonians to directly vote on it.

Poverty Action recommends an APPROVE vote on Referendum 90!

As an organization dedicated to addressing social and economic inequity, we at Poverty Action recognize the importance of education and information in the empowerment of vulnerable populations—especially in the fight against sexual violence.

We also recognize the intersectionality of poverty and sexual violence. People who commit sexual violence usually target those seen as vulnerable, for reasons including their economic or immigration status. Experiencing sexual violence can also lead to homelessness, unemployment, and other financial issues that may exacerbate the survivor's mental and physical health.

ESJR-8212 will also appear on the ballot. ESJR-8212 would secure the Long Term Care Act, a protective resource that allows elderly Washingtonians to age in place and get the long-term care services they need.

Poverty Action recommends an APPROVE vote on ESJR-8212!

Approving ESJR 8212 will give Washington's State Investment Board an additional tool to provide the financial support needed for critical resources such as the Long Term Care Act.
Congressional Responses

Constituent Districts 1-10

Congressional District 1

Suzan DelBene (D). Prefers Democratic Party

1. I introduced the American Families Act with Rep. Rosa DeLauro. Columbia University estimates it could cut child poverty by almost 40%. I co-introduced legislation to dramatically expand the employee retention tax credit to help keep 60 million employed with benefits. Both of the provisions were included in the Heroes Act.

2. I’m fighting for additional federal resources to help state and local governments. I supported the Heroes Act, which would provide Washington state with $11.4 Billion according to the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities. The federal government must help states fund critical programs to address this crisis.

https://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/5-21-20sfp2.pdf

3. Before the COVID crisis I secured $200 million in job-training funds to help individuals receiving nutrition assistance get the skills and training they need to get a good-paying job. The Heroes Act would provide additional direct payments, increased unemployment benefits and tax credits to keep people employed.

4. I cosponsored legislation to add vision, hearing, and dental coverage to Medicare. Low-income patients access dental care through Medicaid. That is why it is critical for the federal government to boost the federal share of Medicaid costs. This will prevent state cuts to Medicaid and is in the Heroes Act.

5. I was an original cosponsor of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, which will hold police accountable by addressing qualified immunity, bar chokeholds, create national law enforcement standards and improve transparency into police misconduct and use-of-force. I will fight to get
6. House Democrats included in the Heroes Act a provision to protect the most vulnerable families from financial ruin. The Heroes Act expands the Fair Debt Collections Practices Act to prohibit the repossession or foreclosing of personal property or garnishment of wages during the public health emergency.

Jeffrey Beeler, Sr. Prefers Republican Party

This candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.

Congressional District 2

Rick Larsen (I). Prefers Democratic Party

1. I fully support increased investments in these social safety net programs. As Congress drafted COVID-19 relief legislation, I prioritized strong investments in emergency rental assistance, nutrition benefits, unemployment assistance and child care assistance. The federal government must support families through these trying times and the recovery ahead.

2. I support federal funding to states to address the COVID-19 budget crunch. That is why I voted for the HEROES Act, and this aid is among my top priorities for a final relief bill. Budget relief will help preserve the social safety net and provide support for Washington's most vulnerable.

3. I support an additional round of stimulus payments and expanding eligibility to include folks who were left out of the first round, like mixed-status couples and adult dependents. One of the most effective anti-poverty measures has been expanded unemployment, and I support extending the $600 increase.

4. I support legislation like H.R. 3, which would expand Medicare to include dental, vision and hearing coverage and reduce the drug cost. I also support investments that expand the supply of medical professionals, and oppose the administration's efforts to undermine the ACA and reduce access to health care.

5. Black lives matter. Real justice for George Floyd and countless others means ending police brutality and addressing the systemic issues that enable racism and inequity to persist. I supported the Justice in Policing Act, because it prohibits profiling, improves training, increases transparency and reforms the doctrine of qualified immunity.

6. I support comprehensive relief for families struggling economically because of the COVID-19 pandemic, which can help reduce borrowing. I support strengthening financial protections for renters, homeowners and students. And I continue to support a fully-funded and empowered CFPB to crack down

Timothy S. Hazelo, Prefers Republican Party

This candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.

Congressional District 3

Jaime Herrera Beutler (I), Prefers Republican Party

This candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.

Carolyn Long, Prefers Democratic Party

This candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.

Congressional District 4

Dan Newhouse (I), Prefers Republican Party

This candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.

Douglas E. Mckinley, Prefers Democratic Party

This candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.
**Congressional District 5**

Cathy McMorris Rodgers (I), Prefers Republican Party

*This candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.*

Dave Wilson, Prefers Democratic Party

*This candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.*

**Congressional District 6**

Derek Kilmer (I), Prefers Democratic Party

1. I've fought to protect and expand federal safety net programs that help people live with dignity. For example, I've sponsored legislation to expand SNAP and to unwind Trump Administration changes that would reduce access to this critical assistance. I've also pushed for additional federal support for Medicaid.

2. I support the HEROES Act which provides assistance to state, local, and tribal governments to prevent these massive budget shortfalls. In addition, that bill provides much needed assistance for housing, schools, and transit agencies as well as to families in need. The federal government needs to step up and help.

3. The CARES Act was a lifeline to millions, but more is needed. The HEROES Act allocates additional resources to vulnerable communities, including direct payments and expanded unemployment benefits. I’m also a sponsor of the Worker Relief & Security Act to extend unemployment assistance through the duration of this crisis.

4. I sponsored the Health Equity and Accountability Act, which focuses on concrete steps to reduce and eliminate health care disparities among minority Americans. This bill would improve data collection, expand access to health care, and enhance mental and behavioral services through investments that specifically support communities of color.

5. I sponsored the Justice in Policing Act to make reforms and honor Black lives. While I agree with the Congressional Black Caucus’ Chair that we shouldn’t abolish police departments altogether, budgets must work to prevent injustice/crime, not just police it. Investments in housing, mental healthcare, etc. are public safety investments.

6. I’ve supported the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and have opposed efforts to dismantle it. The CFPB regulates predatory practices and protects consumers. I’m also working to pass laws to ensure access to affordable healthcare (a major cause of debt) and to reduce student debt.

Elizabeth Kreiselmaier, Prefers Republican Party

*This candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.*

**Congressional District 7**

Pramila Jayapal (I), Prefers Democratic Party

1. I believe that we’re all better off when we’re all better off, so I am a firm believer in a strong social safety net. We must increase funding for these programs, especially now when they’re needed most. At the federal level, my Paycheck Recovery Act would deliver working people immediate relief by putting them back on payroll and healthcare from their employers.

2. I support providing supplemental funding from the federal government to assist our communities who are most in need during this crisis. I also believe we must reform our State’s regressive tax system as we work to address the budget shortfall.

3. We must extend, not slash, the $600 a week of expanded unemployment provided through the CARES Act. We need to get more relief out to more people as this crisis continues. This includes sending stimulus checks out, getting relief to businesses, extending eviction moratoriums, and covering
workers’ paychecks.

4. Health care is a human right and we must make it more affordable and accessible for every American. Last year, I introduced the most comprehensive Medicare for All bill ever in the House. We must ensure that everyone in our country has comprehensive, quality health care no matter their income, race, gender or zip code. My plan would cover hospital visits, primary care, medical devices, lab services, maternity care, and prescription drugs, as well as vision and dental benefits for everyone.

5. I will continue standing up for justice and fighting against inequity. I was proud to help pass the Justice in Policing Act. This bill is an important first step in what is an urgently needed path to justice for Black communities and to finally valuing Black lives in America. It bans chokeholds, establishes a federal police misconduct registry, ends qualified immunity, and designates funding for community-based organizations in Black and Brown communities to redefine and rebuild law enforcement from the ground up.

6. Predatory lenders prey on hardworking people - and the Trump administration is making it worse. I will continue fighting to protect consumers against predatory lending and other abusive practices, especially as so many are struggling during this crisis.

Craig Keller, Prefers Republican Party

This candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.

Kim Schrier (I), Prefers Democratic Party

1. I’ve been a fierce advocate to protect our social safety net programs, including the SNAP program, from attacks by the Trump administration. I also introduced the ASSET Act to eliminate asset limits for TANF, SNAP, and LIHEAP, and raise asset limits on SSI.

2. In Congress, I’ve fought for funding for state and local governments to aid in COVID-19 response. We passed the Heroes Act in the House, which has more than $10.8 billion in funding for Washington State, and $2.2 billion coming directly to 8th district communities.

3. The CARES Act is by no means the end of our work in Congress to help Washington families. I’ve connected families in need with farmers in the district, by granting WIC recipients more flexibility in getting nutritious food and ensuring children still have access to school meals they rely on.

4. In the House in 2019, we passed the Lower Drug Costs Now Act (HR 3), which includes the Medicare Dental Act which would allow Medicare beneficiaries to have access to dental coverage for most dental services such as preventative dental care, routine dental treatments, and dentures.

5. I’m proud to have voted for the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act in the House. We have seen too many instances of ongoing unequal justice in our country. This act addresses excessive use of force and the targeting of Black people by law enforcement.

6. In the House, I’ve voted to protect families with debt, especially during the COVID-19 crisis. We passed legislation to protect those with student loan debt, small businesses and nonprofits with debt, and put restrictions on collections of consumer debt.

Jesse Jensen, Prefers Republican Party

This candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.

Adam Smith (I), Prefers Democratic Party

1. I’m a strong supporter of protecting social programs like Medicaid and SNAP. I’ve co-sponsored legislation to strengthen Social Security as well as the CSA Opportunity Act. During the COVID-19 pandemic, food insecurity has become an even bigger challenge for many families which is why I’m advocating for increased SNAP benefits.

2. One of the most important things that Congress can do is provide relief directly to state, local, and tribal governments. I have made the inclusion of
said relief a top priority during COVID-19 negotiations. Congress must also provide additional funds for housing, transit, education, and other essential services.

3. I support additional economic stimulus payments and an extension of the enhanced unemployment benefits enacted by Congress under the CARES Act. In addition, I have advocated for an increase in SNAP benefits, new funding for housing vouchers and emergency rental assistance, and an increase in Medicaid FMAP.

4. All Americans deserve access to high-quality healthcare they can afford. I support legislation to ensure everyone has access to dental coverage. I emphatically support expanding programs like Medicaid, but also believe in working towards systems such as Medicare for All as the best way to address our nation’s healthcare crisis.

5. I’m supportive of restoring the Voting Rights Act and protecting anti-discrimination laws in accessing housing and credit. I strongly supported House passage of the Justice in Policing Act, which would end qualified immunity, prohibit racial profiling, ban chokeholds and no-knock warrants, and support increased investments in community-based programs.

6. Everything possible must be done to prevent Americans from crippling debt and predatory practices. We must ensure that stimulus checks cannot be garnished by collectors when this money is meant to support struggling families. Furthermore, it is important that landlords provide sufficient options for customers to pay outstanding debts.

Doug Basler, Prefers Republican Party

1. I will work to maintain and enhance all social safety net programs that are proven effective at helping at risk families and individuals.

2. Since I am a federal candidate this will need to be handled at the state level.

3. I am working to see the economy re-opens as soon as possible so that our citizens can get back to work.

4. I am a Federal candidate, this will need to be addressed at the state level.

5. Defunding police and public safety will be a disaster, especially for underserved communities. I support de-escalation methodology training and this requires additional funding.

6. I support anti-usury legislation and would work to see that predatory lenders are prosecuted.

Beth Doglio (I), Prefers Democratic Party

1. I will work to protect these crucial programs and demand increased resources for low-income Washingtonians through the expansion of federal low-income housing and food programs. I will also fight for new programs like Medicare for All, which would give every Washingtonian - regardless of income - access to quality healthcare.

2. Low-income earners in states facing significant deficits - and cuts - cannot afford to lose the critical services their states provide. At the federal level, I would advocate for funding in the next COVID-19 recovery package to go specifically to states like Washington, protecting these needed resources.

3. In the immediate, I would support continuing expanded unemployment benefits and renewed, monthly cash stimulus to help Washingtonians through this pandemic.

4. Dental care is healthcare - but right now too many Americans lack access to coverage and quality care. I support Medicare for All so that everyone can receive high quality healthcare - including dental - without worrying about high-cost deductibles or the threat of bankruptcy.

5. We must transform policing in our country to stamp out systemic racism and ensure true public safety for all. Black lives matter, and I’ll support
policies that further that cause, including police demilitarization, comprehensive implicit bias training, civilian oversight, centralized collection of police shootings, and real accountability for police brutality.

6. We must outlaw predatory practices like exorbitant fees and penalties that target the most vulnerable and deceive low-income families and individuals, disproportionately communities of color. We can start by looking at the companies our own government hires to collect debts and pass reform to

**Marilyn Strickland, Prefers Democratic Party**

1. These services are lifelines and critical to helping families meet their basic needs. We face an urgent economic and public health crisis that demands immediate congressional action and leadership from the Trump administration. In Congress, I would vote for additional federal resources to help sustain these lifelines for Washingtonians.

2. Congress must act immediately to provide additional financial relief to states so they can address the budget crises states face due to COVID-19 and can continue to fully fund vital services. In Congress, I would vote for additional action to provide states these resources, such as the HEROES Act.

3. I would have voted for the HEROES Act, which has $500 billion dollars of funding for the social safety net including financial support for individuals and families, extending additional unemployment benefits and direct payments. I also support pilot programs for universal basic income.

4. Dental care must be part of basic health care, which is a right, not a privilege. I support universal healthcare coverage, beginning with expanding the Affordable Care Act. I will work to overturn the harmful cuts made by the Trump Administration and push for creating a public option.

5. Institutional racism has created inequities in housing, education, employment, healthcare and government including the justice system. Black communities are disproportionately affected. Action is needed to confront and remove barriers that prevent equitable access, and ensure resource allocation to prioritize the health, safety and well being of all communities.

6. The COVID-19 crisis has a disproportionate impact on low-income families and families of color. In Congress, I support additional oversight and protections against predatory lending, predatory debt collection and garnishment practices that will create financial hardship for families and put them at risk of not meeting their basic needs.
Legislative Responses

Districts 5, 14, 15, 21, 27, 28, 29, 30, 44, 47

Governorship

Jay Inslee (I), Prefers Democratic Party

1. This is not a time for austerity but a time to reinforce and strengthen our safety net. Families across Washington are already struggling, I am committed to protecting and reinforcing these services during a time when families are in need.

2. Until we know what the federal government passes in state aid, we will not know the scope of what long-term effects on our budget will be. This I know is true: we cannot balance the budget on the backs of the most vulnerable.

3. I am alarmed that Congressional Republicans have refused to extend expanded unemployment benefits to millions of families in need. My administration will continue to advocate for anti-poverty measures, and I have extended moratoriums on evictions and rent increases, and am offering rental assistance to low-income renters with CARES Act funding.

4. Access to affordable health and dental care is core mission of my administration. Under my administration we have expanded health care coverage to 800,000 additional Washingtonians, expanded access to dental care on tribal lands, protected reproductive health, and passed the nation’s first public option.

5. We need to rethink public safety and eradicate systemic racism not just in law enforcement, but in education, healthcare, housing, and other areas of inequality. I have heard the calls for justice and am acting, establishing a task force to provide recommendations on policing.

6. During the pandemic my administration and I have taken every possible action to protect low-income families and those in need. This includes actions protecting those in need by suspending consumer debt collection and wage garnishments.

Loren Culp, Prefers Republican Party

This candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.
Bill Ramos (I), Prefers Democratic Party
--(State Rep Position 1)--

1. I am a firm believer that we cannot balance our budget on the backs of those that need it most. I will fight to keep these programs intact because I believe that we need a good safety net for people who need it, especially in times like these.

2. The legislative budget is still being discussed but I am committed to protecting those most impacted by COVID and won’t balance the deficit at their expense. There are other places we will look. I am hopeful about the possibility of relief from the Federal Government, which would definitely help.

3. I would continue to support and push the Federal Government to pass the next stimulus programs to follow the CARES act as many of our residents rely on these programs to make ends meet. I support the temporary programs the state has enacted to continue providing aid as necessary.

4. As a Latino, I always look at issues through the lens of equity. I truly know the inequities in our current systems of health and dental care that the pandemic has laid bare to the rest of our society, and I am committed to reducing the disparities in these systems.

5. I am working with members of the People of Color caucus on a Policing Policy Leadership Team to address this very issue. We’re working with advocacy groups and law enforcement to prepare new legislation. Changing a culture within a society of systemic racism takes time, but I know we will.

6. We have done much in the past to slow predatory lending and will continue to do so. We will work with the governor and the legislature to put moratoriums on these practices in this time of a pandemic and help work towards longer term solutions.

Ingrid Anderson, Prefers Democratic Party
--(State Senator)--

1. To recover from COVID-19, we need to maintain and expand programs that vulnerable Washingtonians count on. I’ll bring a nurse and working mom’s perspective to the Senate, prioritize community needs, and take action rooted in our values to defend these programs and invest in others critical for building healthy communities.

2. We have the most upside-down tax code in the country. Working people and the middle class pay a far greater share in state and local taxes than big corporations and the wealthiest households. Fixing this will help address our budget shortfall and protect desperately needed services.

3. We’ve seen what happens at the federal level when corporate special interests are prioritized over working and low-income families. I will ensure our state’s COVID-19 recovery efforts center these families, so those in need have access to a strong support system for housing, healthcare, food

Ken Moninski, Prefers Republican Party
--(State Rep. Position 1)--

This candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.

Lisa Callan (I), Prefers Democratic Party
--(State Rep. Position 2)--

This candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.

Mark Mullet (I), Prefers Democratic Party
--(State Senator)--

This candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.
security and more.

4. I see firsthand how our healthcare system is not optimized for healthy communities, including lacking comprehensive dental care. I’ll bring my experience as a nurse to take on healthcare special interests, advocate for expanded dental options, lower prescription drug costs, and ensure all communities have access to affordable, quality care.

5. Our criminal justice system disproportionately hurts communities of color. We must listen to our community, creating change by demilitarizing police, banning chokeholds, strengthening bias training, and more. Additionally, I support funding for mental and behavioral health alternatives to prison that are both more effective and less costly.

6. Many debt collection practices are unreasonable and exploitive to Washington's most vulnerable families. I will work to prohibit the expensive lawsuits and unfair garnishment efforts designed to create unnecessary hardship, and will fight for needed reforms to prevent the predatory lending that drives excessive debt in the first place.

King County : District 30

Martin Moore, Prefers Independent Republican Party
--(State Rep Position 1)--

1. Due to the increased use of our social safety net programs, we need to consider applying our budget's rainy-day funds toward preserving these programs. We must make sure the financial burden caused from the pandemic does not create new damaging cycles on individuals, our working families, and children.

2. I will fight to keep budget cuts as far away as possible from human services. Additionally, we have to limit new spending that doesn't support our COVID-19 response, and it's time to call upon our rainy-day fund. The money that's freed can be invested into public health and economic recovery.

3. As a City Councilmember, I voted to allocate $300,000 of CARES funding Act to rental assistance. I also voted to make sure late penalties aren't charged to those who can't afford to pay. We must reduce the likelihood people enter the cycle of poverty and homelessness.

4. The pandemic has made an ability to work remotely a necessity for almost every sector. I support updating current dental insurance structures, as well as creating incentives for dental workers to meet patients where they're located, including rural communities, to meet our current needs.

5. The calls for action need to be addressed. I support police reform, creating more opportunities for citizen involvement with police departments, the use of body cameras, banning chokeholds, and looking more closely at community-based policing. Finally, there can always be more training, especially on race and equity issues.

6. Public education and outreach via alliances with community groups will help, and harsher penalties for those who would exploit a crisis would deter predatory practices. Current exploitative practices also highlights the need to examine state lending and usury laws.

Jamila Taylor, Prefers Democratic Party
--(State Rep Position 1)--

This candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.

Jesse Johnson (I), Prefers Democratic Party
--(State Rep Position 2)--

1. I will ensure we don't repeat the same mistake of drastic cuts that underfund our communities and support network, putting us further and further behind. It is beyond time we generate sustainable revenue streams so that we can invest in our priorities and our future, rather than underfund it.

2. We must reform our regressive tax code by closing the tax breaks and loopholes that only
benefit our wealthiest households and corporations. I support meaningful tax
reform that will generate the revenue we are currently leaving on the table, at
the expense of our communities.

3. I was appointed in January and so in my first session was able to help pass
our state's pandemic relief which provided essential support for families,
communities, and small businesses. I will continue to invest in our priorities,
through an equity lens, so that our state recovers stronger.

4. I’m dedicated to bringing down the cost of healthcare. This session, I
sponsored a bill, which passed the House unanimously, to expand dental
health programs for kids and expand outreach to more kids in need. In
the Legislature, I’ll always be an advocate for equity, accessibility, and
affordability for all.

5. I have been very involved in preventive and proactive strategies to reduce
violence in our communities, create opportunity for our youth, and reshape
institutions of power. The murder of George Floyd has shed light on what
many of us have known and experienced for generations. It is time to take
action.

6. I believe our state has taken important steps to protect communities from
exploitative and predatory collection practices, but we have more work to do.
I would appreciate the opportunity to work closely with your organization to
implement legislation to keep our families safe.

Jack Walsh, Prefers Republican Party
--(State Rep Position 2)---
This candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.

King County : District 47

Debra Entenman (I), Prefers Democratic Party
--(State Rep Position 1)---
This candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.

Kyle Lybeydyev, Prefers Republican Party
--(State Rep Position 1)---
This candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.

Pat Sullivan (I), Prefers Democratic Party
--(State Rep Position 2)---

1. Preserving our investments in social safety net programs is one of my top budget priorities. TANF,
   ABD, and HEN provide critical support to our
   most vulnerable neighbors, and I am committed to
   finding ways to maintain and expand such programs
   wherever possible.

2. Addressing the budget shortfall will require raising
   progressive revenue and cutting non-essential
   programs. My experience working on the budget for
   the last decade—including during the Great Recession—has prepared me
   to make tough decisions to ensure our next budget protects our most
   vulnerable populations and progressive policy investments during the
   current public health and economic crisis.

3. To speed economic recovery while reducing poverty, I support
   expanding job creation and workforce development programs, increasing
   access to affordable child care, improving healthcare access, and tenant
   protections and housing policy that prevents evictions/an increase in
   homelessness.

4. I am a strong supporter of community health clinics. These facilities
   provide access within the community so that those seeking health care
access don’t have to utilize emergency rooms at a higher cost. I also support continuing to support dental chairs in these facilities.

5. I stand in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement. I support fully funding community services to reduce the reliance on our police forces for non-criminal matters, and I have previously sponsored and passed legislation to improve community-based mental health care. Moving forward, I also support improving accountability and transparency in policing to rebuild trust and end police brutality.

6. I have fought to protect families from predatory financial services throughout my time in the legislature, including supporting HB 1709 in 2009, which drastically restricts predatory payday lending. I will continue to support legislation that reduces predatory practices and unduly affects vulnerable families.

Ted Cooke, Prefers Republican Party
--(State Rep Position 2)--

This candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.

Pierce County : District 27

Laurie Jinkins (I), Prefers Democratic Party
--(State Rep Position 1)--

1. First, we need to make sure these services are not cut as we’re faced with a $9B budget shortfall over the next three years. Second, we need to find new revenue sources to assure we can expand services.

2. The simple truth is that it’s going to have to be a balance between revenue and reductions. Additional revenue has to come first because reductions must be a last resort. The thing that might help the most is a federal package and we should do whatever we can to help our federal partners get one.

3. I support all of these plus a lot more. The only way we will be able to expand programs is with federal assistance, adoption of additional revenue sources and/or economic recovery.

4. Expanding provider recruitment into underserved and rural communities is key. Our community clinics have done a good job at expanding dental care throughout Washington and we should continue to build these programs. Adopting a dental therapy program would help. Finally, access isn’t the only problem. Part of the challenge is that too many providers do not share the lived experience of those they treat. This can make patients not want to engage with health care providers.

5. A House Democratic Caucus leadership group has been meeting with stakeholders for months and has identified over 60 possible police accountability measures for consideration. I will support the recommendations that come from this group.

6. I’ve done a lot of work on addressing consumer and medical debt, including lowering interest rates and curbing unscrupulous collections practices. I haven’t heard any particular ideas recently but am very supportive of continuing to build on the good work we’ve already done.

Ryan Talen, Prefers Democratic Party
--(State Rep Position 1)--

This candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.

Jake Fey (I), Prefers Democratic Party
--(State Rep Position 2)--

1. These are all very valuable services. The only way we can strengthen these services in the short term is to ensure that we provide sufficient funding and we will need to raise revenue to make sure that there are sufficient funds to make these services effective.

2. In general, it is clear that we will need to raise funding to cover the shortfall resulting from the impacts of COVID-19. For the supplemental
transportation budget in 2020 I ensured that transit and special needs transportation were not reduced as a result of I-976. For the 2021 session I will continue to find ways to keep those programs whole.

3. I am supportive of continuing support services for families that are impacted by COVID-19. Unfortunately, the State does not have the ability or the authority to increase debt the way the federal government does. I believe our best strategy is to push the federal government hard to provide the necessary financial resources to help families who are suffering from the effects of COVID-19.

4. I would increase the outreach to effected communities to make families more aware of existing programs that can provide dental and healthcare. I would provide additional funding to pay for the additional people that would be served by those programs.

5. The State Legislature needs to reevaluate the financial investments for public safety and in particular the Washington State Patrol. The State also needs to look at the resources we are currently providing to local governments to help support local law enforcement agencies. That effort should be in collaboration with local communities who are the primary funders of law enforcement. It is clear that the current model of law enforcement is impacting disadvantaged communities and reinforces, unfortunately, too often racism and anti-black violence which needs to end.

6. The Legislature should consider at least temporary restrictions on debt collection and garnishment.

**Barry Knowles, Prefers Independent Party**

(State Rep Position 2)–

*This candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.*

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**Jeannie Darneille (I), Prefers Democratic Party**

(State Senator)–

1. My mission statement as a Senator includes reducing poverty by any means necessary. As Chair for the Human Services, Reentry, and Rehabilitation Committee and as a member of the Ways and Means Committee, these issues are paramount in my work as a State Senator.

2. In 16 of my 20 years in office, I have served on the budget committees. As a champion for social justice issues, I worry less about other issues in the budget, which, we know, will generally have many champions, in order to focus my influence on human services funding.

3. Investing in programs that put money in the hands of anyone who will spend it is fundamental policy since recovering from the 1929 crash. Overall, I support direct cash assistance, rental vouchers and foreclosure assistance, tuition deferral, and other subsidies that help people with shelter, healthcare, services, and education assistance.

4. Dental care is fundamental to improving a person's general health status, in the same way that access to behavioral health services improves health and employability. We fought hard to include these services in Medicaid managed care program benefits in WA State and will work to maintain these benefits.

5. There are many aspects of the administration of public assets that need to change to improve outcomes that reduce racial disparities, including justice programs and child welfare programs. Rebooting funding across a spectrum to provide for improved services and public safety in a time of financial scarcity is critically important.

6. Washington has greatly reduced or limited predatory lending practices and improved access to financial planning and credit repair services. I support the work of the WA Asset Building Coalition, which I helped to found, to help families exposed to debt and emergencies to plan and implement strategies for financial health.
Kyle Paskewitz, Prefers Republican Party
--(State Senator)--
This candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.

Pierce County: District 28

Mari Leavitt (I), Prefers Democratic Party
--(State Rep Position 1)--
This candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.

Kevin Ballard, Prefers Republican Party
--(State Rep Position 1)--
This candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.

Chris Nye, Prefers Republican Party
--(State Rep Position 2)--
This candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.

Dan Bronoske, Prefers Democratic Party
--(State Rep Position 2)--

1. TANF, ABD, and HEN, are critical lifelines. Therefore, I consider them to be essential services to the public that must be maintained during this unpresented challenge. To strengthen them we must prioritize them in the budget for the next biennium, and expand them during economic downturns like the present one.

2. There needs to be a combination of budget cuts combined with new revenues. Unfortunately, all new revenue proposals combined will not make up for the $8.8 billion budget shortfall. The essential services stated above must be prioritized because our societies’ most vulnerable may never recover from the pandemic otherwise.

3. The Working Family’s Tax Credit would be one excellent mechanism to counter-balance the regressive nature of our state’s current tax code. The benefit of putting cash directly into the pockets of working families is that it gets put back into the local economy immediately, directly acting as a stimulus.

4. Especially today, is has been demonstrated that when healthcare is tied to employment, and people lose employment and healthcare through no fault of their own, there is a gap in accessibility to healthcare, including dental care. The state needs to ensure that no-one loses healthcare because of the COVID pandemic.

5. Investments in affordable childcare, early education and pathways to higher education or career & technical skill training are key community investments that can and need to be made to move beyond policing-focused community investments. We also need to fundamentally rethink policing in America and what we expect with officer roles.

6. I would advocate for strong consumer protection laws and policies that do not allow lenders to charge exorbitant rates on vulnerable community members needing loans. Also making sure garnishments do not disproportionately take away from the ability to provide sustenance and shelter from those needing resources most.

Steve O’Ban (I), Prefers Republican Party
--(State Senator)--

1. The objective in 2021 will be to protect from cuts the safety net for low income families. Without the opportunity to make $1.5 billion or so in cuts with 11 months left in the last year of the current biennium had a special session been called in June 2020, the Legislature will have just 3 months to make $1.5 billion in cuts when it meets and passes a supplemental budget in March of 2021. This will be enormously painful. I will continue to call for a special session.

2. I’ll keep calling for a special session. Even if tax increases could be voted upon, they won’t result in any revenue until late 2021, at the earliest. Coming
up with $1.4 billion in just a few months will be extremely painful.

3. I’ll do everything in my power to protect the existing safety net. There will be enormous pressure to cut it, and mental health, and other vital programs supporting the most vulnerable. Realistically, protecting against cuts in light of the aggravated budget crisis because of the failure to make more modest cut in June 2020, has to be our top priority.

4. Good dental care is key to good health care in general. We need to find more Medicaid funds in an extremely difficult budget environment. There are ways to reduce the administrative costs charged by MCOS.

5. I believe we need to reform law enforcement. We need to make it less difficult to remove bad officers, a registry and mandatory reporting if an officer observes police brutality. I do not support defunding police, which is extremely unpopular in low-income communities.

6. I oppose predatory debt collection and if we see an increase in such practices, I will support legislation to prevent it.

T’wina Nobles, Prefers Democratic Party

--(State Senator)--

1. In order to ensure we can preserve and strengthen programs like TNAF, ABD, and HEN, we must explore options like a capital gains tax and closing unfair tax breaks. We will need new and stable forms of revenue to fund these essential social safety net programs.

2. In order to address the state’s budget shortfall while also funding our essential community services, we must address our regressive tax system. We must ensure the burden of funding services no longer falls on our working families, but instead asks corporations and our wealthiest citizens to pay their fair share.

3. In order to enact statewide anti-poverty measures, we must fight for tax reform. We need new forms of revenue that will allow us to sustainably support communities in need. If elected I also commit to partnering with the Statewide Poverty Action Network to identify and advocate for key measures.

4. I have pledged to support legislation for high quality, sustainable, affordable, publicly funded health care for all Washington residents. I have personal experience with the devastation that is wrought from lack of insurance, and I know we must fight to ensure that everyone has access to this human right.

5. I will work in partnership with local activists to evaluate police budgets and have discussions about reform and accountability. This may include budget reform, union contract reform, and investing in social services that prevent the necessity of certain levels of policing down the line.

6. I commit to working with the Statewide Poverty Action Network to protect families from predatory debt collection and garnishment practices. I will also fight for long term economic empowerment of low-income families and families of color by working toward housing affordability/attainability and tax reform.

Melanie Morgan (I), Prefers Democratic Party

--(State Rep Position 1)--

This candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.

Koshin Mohamed Fidaar, Prefers Republican Party

--(State Rep Position 1)--

1. Continue providing this services including zoom follow up with the families to identify critical additional services they may need. I want to see increased suicide prevention and monitoring addiction problems.

2. I study ways we can receive additional funds from the federal
government and suspend during COVID19 recovery the government spending without reducing the critical public safety for the poor.

3. I will advocate the direct payment of the poor and non-working families due to coronavirus pandemic. We need to ensure our vulnerable population to be priority for our recovery including access to additional training while normalizing our economy to pre-pandemic status.

4. I will continue to have accessible healthcare for the poor and the working families.

5. I will advocate for just policing policies without demonizing most of our hardworking and honest heroes we entrusted the public safety. We do have problems in our policing policies and some police officers are guilty of commuting crimes. However, we need to understand the root cause of the problem and hold accountable the mayors, the police leadership accountable.

6. Candidate did not respond to this question.

Steve Kirby, Prefers Democratic Party
--(State Rep Position 2)--

1. We have to prioritize these programs so that the most critical needs of low income people can be met. That will be a heavy lift because of our budget shortfall, but it will only exacerbate our problem if we don’t.

2. I wish I had better answers, but I don’t. We can’t cut our way out of this problem, so the goal will be to salvage as many of these programs as we can while balancing the budget. The only way that works is more help from the federal government or more revenue - or both.

3. Underfunding safety net programs will only make things worse. My top priorities are to keep people in their homes, and ensure that there is adequate childcare available as we safely and responsibly reopen segments of our economy and get people back to work.

4. I’m in favor of a single payer system that covers all healthcare needs - like every other developed country in the world.

5. The word limit won’t allow me to elaborate, but in a nutshell, we need to redefine policing in this country. Stop recruiting from the military, weed out the obvious racism that we have all witnessed, and replace police responses with people actually trained to help people in crisis.

6. People who have lost their ability to pay their debts because of the pandemic should not be harassed and bullied a manner that only makes things worse. I’m willing to work with stakeholders on solutions that are fair and equitable to everyone involved.

Terry Harder, Prefers Republican Party
--(State Rep Position 2)--

This candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.

Strom Peterson (I), Prefers Democratic Party
--(State Rep Position 1)--

1. I have been proud to be one of many legislators who has been pushing to restore these essential services to pre-great recession levels. We saw the devastation these cuts had on our most vulnerable and we can’t let that happen again.

2. We must fix Washington’s upside down tax system and stop relying on working people to foot the bill. The wealthiest among us must pay their fair share.

3. We need to partner with our Federal delegation and push for more funding to support families, schools, and our local governments. We must also continue to invest in infrastructure projects and a green economy that will provide family wage jobs to thousands of Washingtonians.

4. We have worked with our Tribal partners in expanding the use of dental
therapists and we must now continue this work to get this incredibly important healthcare to our most vulnerable communities.

5. We have made record investments in behavioral and mental health, but only after decades of underfunding. Police are not properly trained to intervene in mental health crises so we must continue to invest in embedded mental health workers when it comes to crisis response. Of course, a well-funded system will reduce the number of people getting to that crisis level in the first place.

6. We should take a pause, at the very least, on some of the garnishments the state imposes (more LOF reform!) and continue our work on predatory debt collection with the Attorney General’s office.

Brian Thompson, Prefers Republican Party  
--(State Rep Position 1)--

1. I will support these services by working to reopen Washington businesses and schools, essential to the success of the WorkFirst Program as well as for revenue to support all of these programs.

2. 1. Restore revenue: Reopen businesses. 2. Protect revenue: Create legislation to prevent the governor from closing businesses again. 3. Improve Efficiency: Develop rules to encourage state agencies to not exhaust their budgets. 4. Eliminate waste: Identify, reduce, and eliminate redundant spending.

3. I support reopening Washington. I disagree with the term "pandemic-induced" poverty - it was "reaction-induced." Prior to the "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order by Governor Inslee, the retransmission rate had dropped to a safe level. I will support providing public information to equip individuals to choose what is best for them.

4. Our state allows fluoride to be dumped into our drinking water, leading to dental fluorosis, tooth decay, hypothyroidism, low IQ, ADHD, as well as other health concerns. I will improve the health of all Washingtonians by eliminating fluoride from our drinking water.

5. I am unmoved by the boisterous few. In 1998, the majority of Washingtonians voted to end affirmative action. That stance was maintained last year with a “No” vote on Referendum 88. Violence between individuals has occurred where police are absent or unsupported. We need our police to keep the peace.

6. Governor Inslee, enabled by current legislators, created a mess of our economy and fractured the stability many Washingtonians worked hard to achieve. It is unfair Washingtonians are paying the price for the situation created by their government. We must never allow this to happen again; I will see to it.

Lillian Ortiz-Self (I), Prefers Democratic Party  
--(State Rep Position 2)--

1. Since my first year in office I have been fighting to increase these services. We have made some increases but not enough.

2. We will need to raise revenues. I will be fighting for options like Capital gains, and others to help meet this shortfall. We will probably have to make some cuts but I will fight really hard to protect services for our most vulnerable.

3. I will continue to support food security efforts, housing insecurity efforts, childcare, employment security, etc etc. I am committed to protecting our most vulnerable.

4. We need to continue to work towards healthcare for all, for every resident in our State, and this includes dental care. I will support legislation that expands healthcare for all and dental care.

5. I believe we have underfunded the services our communities need and have been calling for, especially in some communities. As a result of this disparity, and other reasons like racism we have seen the consequences in our black and brown communities. We need to work collaboratively to increase funding and services. Law enforcement are not equipped to be mental health counselors, substance abuse counselors, etc. Their training needs to increase around issues like when to call for help from professionals,
anti-racism, collaborating with others etc. but lets not fool ourselves they will not become mental health counselors. We need collaborative programs.

6. By restricting certain practices that prey on our most vulnerable.

**Amy Schaper, Prefers Republican Party**  
--(State Rep Position 2)--

*This candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.*

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**Snohomish County : District 44**

**John Lovick (I), Prefers Democratic Party**  
--(State Rep Position 1)--

*This candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.*

**John T. Kartak, Prefers Republican Party**  
--(State Rep Position 1)--

*This candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.*

**April Berg, Prefers Democratic Party**  
--(State Rep Position 2)--

1. It is absolutely essential that we protect these services that help low-income and vulnerable Washingtonians meet basic needs. During this pandemic, we must make sure programs are accessible and appropriately funded, so even when economic conditions rapidly shift, communities in need receive full and timely support.

2. At this moment of crisis and intense need, the Legislature must not use a deficit as a means to cut crucial services. Instead, we must revise our upside-down, regressive tax code and pursue new, progressive revenue by closing tax loopholes and asking large, profitable corporations to pay their fair share.

3. Too many families are struggling to make ends meet, find and stay in affordable housing, and afford needed healthcare. Next session, as our pandemic response and recovery continues, I will advocate for the needs of community and prioritize ensuring low-income Washingtonians have access to housing, healthcare, and economic opportunity.

4. Dental care is absolutely necessary for strong community health, but for too many health and dental care is inaccessible and too expensive - and the pandemic just makes things worse. I'll prioritize increasing dental coverage, lowering hospital and drug costs, and improving our public option to ensure everyone has quality care.

5. As a Black woman myself, I recognize these calls for change and have personally worked to end the school-to-prison pipeline. We must reform our criminal justice system, strengthen I-940 provisions, and adequately invest in our communities. I will be a leader for thoughtful action on these issues in the Legislature.

6. Predatory lawsuits, collection practices, and garnishment abuses that target poor and marginalized Washingtonians should permanently cease. Instead of putting the vulnerable in a position of developing excessive debt and the unfair mistreatment that often follows, we should work with communities to provide help that prevents this challenge from the beginning.

**Mark A. James, Prefers Republican Party**  
--(State Rep Position 2)--

*This candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.*
Yakima County: District 14

Chris Corry (I), Prefers Republican Party
--(State Rep Position 1)--

This candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.

Tracy Rushing, Prefers Democratic Party
--(State Rep Position 1)--

1. The pandemic has magnified why social safety net programs are necessary, and this is an opportunity to strengthen them. Knowing we cannot rely on federal funding, we must reassess our current funding structure, including Washington’s regressive tax system, and develop our tools to reach families in need of resources.

2. In such times of shortfall, we must have a precise, data-driven approach to how funds are distributed for essential services including housing, education, healthcare, and food insecurity. But we also have the opportunity to rethink where we get these funds and to make our state’s regressive tax system more equitable.

3. Perhaps most importantly, to emerge from this health and financial crisis, we have to effectively manage the pandemic. And with the current paucity of national leadership, we must start with the basics - namely expanded nutritional assistance, eviction protections, and unemployment - and grow these based on our evolving funding structure.

4. As a pediatrician, ER physician, and mom, I see that nearly everyone wants affordable, accessible healthcare. It’s why I endorsed Whole Washington. A universal, comprehensive healthcare system should address our physical, mental, and dental health. It’s the right thing to do, and it costs less to do so.

5. I prefer the term “reimagine” for how we discuss community safety. It means we’ll thoroughly consider the roles we expect of our public safety officers, and the roles that would be better served by other avenues. In many ways, our current system over-burdens police while underfunding more effective community services.

6. I do believe in strengthening protections against predatory lending practices. However, I believe this is one small part during a pandemic-induced financial crisis. A family’s need for such sources depends on whether we’re successful strengthening the services, assistance, and protections needed by families furloughed, quarantined, or deemed essential.

Yakima County: District 15

Bruce Chandler (I), Prefers Republican Party
--(State Rep Position 1)--

This candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.

Jack McEntire, Prefers Democratic Party
--(State Rep Position 1)--

This candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.

Jeremie Dufault (I), Prefers Republican Party
--(State Rep Position 2)--

This candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.

AJ Cooper, Prefers Democratic Party
--(State Rep Position 2)--

This candidate did not respond to our questionnaire.
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