

Candidate Questionnaire – 2016

Why are you running for office?

What do you view as the top issue(s) for your district?

How do you view the role of the legislature?

As part of the endorsement process, AWB will require a background check for all new candidates, will you be willing to participate in a background check?

Transportation:

In 2015, the legislature adopted a 16 year, \$16 billion statewide transportation funding and reform package. Given the ongoing shift to more efficient alternative fuels, this might be the last gas tax increase in Washington state. How do you see Washington paying for infrastructure in the future?

Environment:

Is Washington doing enough today in regards to managing its share of greenhouse gas emissions, or do we need to do more? If we are doing enough on climate, what other environmental priorities would you have? If you believe we need to do more, what would you support as appropriate steps to reducing greenhouse gas emissions?

Health Care:

There are proposals to expand Medicaid or create a universal health care system in WA state. Would you support these changes and if so, how would you fund them?

Labor & Employment

This November's ballot will include initiative I-1433 that, if passed, would raise the minimum wage in Washington state to \$13.50 by 2020, and provide paid safe and sick leave to all employees. Do you Support or Oppose I-1433? Should local governments be allowed to set a higher minimum wage than the state mandated minimum wage? Should an employee's minimum wage calculation include other forms of compensation like paid leave, health benefits, and bonuses?)

Education & Workforce Training:

The current discussion about education funding is being driven by the Supreme Court decision in *McCleary v. State of Washington*, and is focused on how much more money the state needs to dedicate to K-12 education. Do you believe this is the totality of the discussion? If not what else should be part of the discussion? For example, how are we currently spending the money being dedicated to K-12 education?

Career and Technical Education (CTE) provides an important opportunity for students to learn skills Washington state businesses are looking for. Currently the funding formula for Career and Technical Education (CTE) does not adequately meet the program needs. What is your opinion about CTE programs and funding for them within the entirety of education funding?

The K-12 system is the base by which our state's workforce is developed. That being said, it is important that business be a part of the K-12 conversation. How would you propose to include businesses so that they are an integral part of our state's K-12 system?

Taxes & Fiscal:

An analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau shows that Washington businesses pay 58% of all state and local taxes — this state and local tax burden on businesses is the 7th highest in the nation. Do you think Washington employers pay too much, too little, or about the right amount of taxes? What, if anything, would you propose to change?