



## National Electrical Contractors Association Puget Sound Chapter (NECA Puget Sound Chapter) 2016 General Election Candidate Questionnaire

### Introduction

NECA Puget Sound Chapter (NECA), through its Political Action Committee (PAC), evaluates, endorses and makes campaign contributions to candidates who support their policy positions. To be considered for an endorsement and/or a campaign contribution interested candidates must complete and return this general election candidate questionnaire no later than **September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016**. ***An attachment to this questionnaire explains NECA Puget Sound Chapter's policy positions related to each question in detail. Please review this attachment prior to answering the questionnaire.***

Questionnaires can be return via email to [chris@necaseattle.org](mailto:chris@necaseattle.org) or via U.S. Post to: NECA Puget Sound Chapter, 16001 Aurora Avenue North, Suite 200, Shoreline, WA. 98133 attn: Chris Reigelsperger.

### General Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Legislative District: \_\_\_\_\_

Party Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Policy Issues

1. **NECA Puget Sound Chapter supports allowing the option of obtaining private sector industrial insurance.** If elected would support or oppose allowing the option of obtaining private sector industrial insurance?

Support: \_\_\_\_\_

Oppose: \_\_\_\_\_

Explain:

2. **NECA Puget Sound Chapter opposes building code changes that exempt specialty sectors from state permit and inspection requirements, and license or certificate requirements.** If elected would you support or oppose building code changes that exempt specialty sectors from state permit and inspection requirements, and license or certificate requirements?

Support: \_\_\_\_\_

Oppose: \_\_\_\_\_

Explain:

3. **NECA Puget Sound Chapter supports restructuring the apprenticeship funding mechanism at the state level.** If elected would you support or oppose support restructuring the apprenticeship funding mechanism at the state level?

Support: \_\_\_\_\_

Oppose: \_\_\_\_\_

Explain:

4. **NECA Puget Sound Chapter supports reforming our state's B&O tax.** If elected would you support or oppose reforming our state's B&O tax?

Support: \_\_\_\_\_

Oppose: \_\_\_\_\_

Explain:

5. **NECA Puget Sound Chapter opposes the establishment of a state Capital Gains Tax.** If elected would you support or oppose the establishment of a state Capital Gains Tax?

Support: \_\_\_\_\_

Oppose: \_\_\_\_\_

Explain:

6. **NECA Puget Sound Chapter opposes Initiative 1433.** If elected would you support or oppose Initiative 1433?

Support: \_\_\_\_\_

Oppose: \_\_\_\_\_

Explain:

7. **NECA Puget Sound Chapter supports public funding of charter schools.** If elected would you support or oppose public funding of charter schools?

Support: \_\_\_\_\_

Oppose: \_\_\_\_\_

Explain:

8. **NECA Puget Sound Chapter opposes a state income tax.** If elected would you support or oppose a state income tax?

Support: \_\_\_\_\_

Oppose: \_\_\_\_\_

Explain:

### **Campaign Information**

9. NECA uses the non-profit service, CandidateVerification, to conduct background checks on all candidates that it considers for endorsement. Will you allow NECA to perform a background check using CandidateVerification as part of its endorsement process?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_\_ No

10. What are your top priorities?

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11. Who are your major endorsers?

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12. How much money have you raised? \_\_\_\_\_

13. How many doors have you knocked? \_\_\_\_\_

14. Do you have paid campaign staff? \_\_\_\_\_



## **National Electrical Contractors Association Puget Sound Chapter (NECA Puget Sound Chapter) Policy Position Primer**

### **Industrial Insurance Reform (Q 1)**

The state Industrial Insurance Program provides medical and other benefits to workers who suffer a work-related injury or develop an occupational disease. The Industrial Insurance Program is administered by the Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) and is funded through a premium collected from employers and employees in the state. Employers in Washington do not have the option of obtaining private sector industrial insurance. Allowing the option of obtaining private sector industrial insurance increases competition and reduces cost. NECA Puget Sound Chapter supports allowing the option of obtaining private sector industrial insurance to increase competition and reduce cost.

### **License and Certification Exemptions (Q 2)**

The Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) has responsibility for permitting and inspecting electrical systems in all types of installations throughout the state. Anyone doing electrical work must have an electrical contractor license, and anyone who works in the electrical construction trade must be certified as a journeyman or specialty electrician. Electrical work of any kind is subject to permit and inspection requirements, unless exempt, and the individual doing the work must have the appropriate license and certification, unless similarly exempt. Last session legislation was introduced seeking to exempt electrical work in specialty sectors from license or certificate requirements. NECA Puget Sound Chapter opposes exempting electrical work in specialty sectors from license or certificate requirements because it increases public risk.

### **Apprenticeship Program Funding (Q 3)**

NECA Puget Sound Chapter, and other trades that operate worker apprenticeship programs, support restructuring the funding mechanism at the state level, to ensure that the dollars associated with Apprenticeship FTE's are provided directly to programs that do not utilize the Community College system for instructors or classrooms.

### **B&O Tax Reform (Q 4)**

Washington state's business and occupation (B&O) tax is a gross receipts tax. It is measured on the value of products, gross proceeds of sale, or gross income of the business. This means there are no deductions

from the B&O tax for labor, materials, taxes, or other costs of doing business. The B&O tax rate varies by classification. Certain B&O credits are allowed. However, since our state's B&O tax is based on gross receipts even if a business loses money they still must pay the state's B&O tax.

### **State Capital Gains Tax (Q 5)**

A capital gains tax (CGT) is a tax on the profit realized on the sale of non-inventory assets that are purchased at a lower price than the sales price. The most common capital gains are realized from the sale of stocks, bonds, and real estate. The amount of federal CGT depends on both the tax bracket of the individual and the amount of time the capital asset was held before being sold.

Last session, legislation was introduced that would create an annual state CGT to be imposed on the sale or other voluntary exchange of capital assets by resident individuals at a tax rate of 7 percent to fund basic education. NECA Puget Sound Chapter opposes the implementation of a state capital gains tax because capital gains are already taxed at the federal level.

### **I – 1433 Minimum Wage and Paid Sick Leave Initiative (Q 6)**

Initiative 1433, an initiative for a statewide minimum wage and paid sick leave standards will be placed on the November ballot. I-1433 would raise the state's minimum wage to \$13.50 per hour over 4 years and establish minimum standards for paid sick leave at 1 hour paid sick leave for every 40 hours worked. For the electrical construction trade, the initiative's sick leave provisions are of great concern because there is no exemption for the electrical construction trade, and no option to waive it via collective bargaining agreements. NECA Puget Sound Chapter opposes state mandates on minimum wage and paid sick leave because those policies stifle economic growth our state.

### **Charter School Funding (Q 7)**

In 2012 voters passed Initiative 1240 which approved state funding of charter schools. The Washington Education Association (WEA) is opposed to state funding of charter schools because charter schools receive public funding but are overseen by a quasi-public, rather than a public, governing body. Additionally, teachers at charter schools are not WEA members. Proponents of charter schools support them because they believe that not all students can succeed in the public school environment and charter schools offer additional resources for student to succeed. NECA Puget Sound Chapter supports public funding of charter schools because it increases opportunities for students to succeed.

### **State Income tax (Q 8)**

For years, voters in Washington State have been asked to consider implementing a state income tax and repeatedly they have vote such a measure down. Proponents of a state income tax argue that our current tax system is regressive and lower and middle income earners pay more than their fair share of taxes. Opponents of a state income tax argue that a state income tax is just another tax that creates a "slippery slope" of more taxation and larger government. NECA Puget Sound Chapter opposes a state income tax because it would lead to a "slippery slope" of more taxation and larger government.