

Government

[Encompasses previous planks of Foreign Policy, Military and Veteran Affairs, Law and the Justice System, and Media as well as Government and Political Reform...]

The United States should lead by example and work within the world community in a spirit of peace, cooperation, and generosity to support human welfare, freedom, and democracy. Diplomacy and nonviolent conflict resolution must be the primary organizing principles of our foreign policy. We pledge support of our troops and honor our veterans who act in the service of our country. The core task of the U.S. military is to provide for the common defense. Our military must be adequate to provide for our nation's defense and should never be open to abuses of power by any branch of government. The rule of law is a prerequisite for a democratic civil society. A good government provides for the safety, security, and justice for all, with care, fairness, and respect for everyone. Finally, Government derives its legitimacy from the people, to whom it must be answerable; it serves as their instrument to achieve ends that the people could not achieve individually. Our representative democracy requires full participation by an informed citizenry; a voting process that is fair, transparent, and open to all; and public officials who are accountable to society. An informed citizenry and persistently inquisitive media are essential for democracy to flourish. The free flow of information is fundamental to democracy.

We believe:

- The United States should provide proportionate assistance and work cooperatively with other nations to build a more peaceful, sustainable, and stable world by addressing root causes of conflict, including poverty, inequitable access to natural resources, economic injustice, and environmental degradation;
- We must protect our nation from external threats without suppressing basic human rights at home and abroad;
- The United States should work closely and persistently with other countries to prevent or stop genocide anywhere it occurs;
- Our government should not engage in covert efforts to destabilize other nations' governments.
- The U.S. cannot claim the moral high ground among the nations of the world in terms of its treatment of its own people unless substantial systemic and structural changes are made in our civil and criminal justice system;
- The strikingly disproportional negative impact of our civil and criminal justice system on people based on race, sexual orientation and gender identity, disability and class demands our attention and cries out for justice too long denied;
- Nonviolent conflict resolution, education, youth programs, health care, social services, rehabilitation, and living wage jobs will reduce crime and violence;
- That adequate drug treatment, education, and decriminalization should be used to reduce the public health crisis of drug abuse and associated crime;
- The criminal justice system is the appropriate venue for prosecution of all violent crimes, including acts of terrorism.
- Democracy relies upon an informed citizenry;
- A free press is essential and valuable for democracy, for governance and for human development;
- The public airwaves and the Internet must serve everyone within the United States of America and must not be controlled by a few corporations;
- Access to all forms of media transmission should be provided for everyone within the United States of America;

- Reporters who accurately report on news and events should be protected from public and governmental abuse and retaliation.
- It is the task of the military to execute the legal directives issued by the civilian Commander in Chief;
- Under the Constitution, it is the duty of Congress to declare war, appropriate funds, provide oversight, and act to prevent the misuse of the military;
- Our military service members—active duty, reserve and National Guard—are entitled to serve with a clear mission and adequate resources;
- Female military personnel and all others who rely on Tricare and military medical facilities have the right to make their own reproductive decisions, with the same rights accorded to civilians;
- Military contracts should be awarded based on fair and competitive bidding, with preference given to U.S. companies and set-aside businesses.

We Call For:

National Level	State Level

- Full support and funding of our State Department as the primary foreign policy arm of the U.S. government;
- Honoring and upholding the rights, welfare, and healthy environment of all indigenous peoples;
- Freezing the assets of leaders of repressive regimes and banning military exports to such countries;
- Participation in and funding of multilateral peacekeeping missions;
- Revision of the War Powers Act to ensure that Congress can end a war or other military action;
- Cooperative and fully funded participation in international organizations including the United Nations and international courts of justice, provided that the national security interests of the United States are protected;
- Honoring ratification of international treaties that protect civilian populations and human rights, and that address climate change;
- Preventing genocide, and protecting refugees;
- An effective, comprehensive plan to ensure our security while protecting our constitutional rights and the human rights of all;
- Working with other nations to pursue law enforcement action against terrorist networks, rather than by acting through military intervention;
- Effective foreign aid to reduce poverty and improve access to the necessities of life;
- Promoting programs that support all voluntary forms of evidence-based, safe, and effective family planning worldwide;
- Fair trade among nations based on sound environmental principles, sustainable agriculture and manufacturing, recognition of property rights, and democratic and economic rights of consumers and the workforce;

- Renegotiating international trade agreements to deal adequately and transparently with human rights, the rights of indigenous peoples, labor rights, and environmental rights and laws to make them truly fair trade agreements;
- Rebuilding the civilian infrastructure and economy in Iraq and Afghanistan, using international agencies and local labor;
- Detailed and public accounting of all reconstruction funds spent in “Operation Iraqi Freedom” and “Operation Enduring Freedom”;
- Changing our diplomatic engagements in South Asia, including those with Afghanistan and Pakistan, to work toward peaceful resolution of ongoing conflicts;
- Serious, full, constructive, and persistent United States engagement to promote negotiations and other actions that will lead to a peaceful, sustainable resolution of the Israeli–Palestinian conflict, based on mutual recognition and ensuring security, economic growth, and quality of life for the peoples of the sovereign state of Palestine and the sovereign state of Israel;
- Political and economic self-determination for the Cuban people and normalization of our relations with Cuba, including an end to the United States-imposed embargo and travel ban;
- Ending the use of United States tax money to fund, train or sponsor military or police forces that suppress human and civil rights in foreign countries;
- Reduction of nuclear arsenals, strengthening of international control of fissile material including “depleted” uranium (dU), and nonproliferation of nuclear weapons by limiting the use of fissile material to peaceful purposes;
- Using foreign aid to offset or forgive onerous debt of countries forced to choose between debt repayment and essential services;
- A foreign policy that encourages struggling economies worldwide to engage in economic growth policies, such as infrastructure investment, without compelling privatization of government services or natural resources as a way to refinance their nations’ debts;
- Restoration of our historic full adherence to the Geneva and Vienna Conventions;
- Allowing developing nations more influence in the running of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank;
- International agreements that bring opportunity and employment for Washington workers and businesses;
- Honoring the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and signing the United Nations agreement creating the International Criminal Courts;
- The United States and United Nations to ban the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in weapons of war whereupon AI, without the intervention of a human, attacks persons, buildings, or population centers.
- An informed citizenry and civil discourse are necessary to a functioning democracy;
- We support equitable access to the political process for all Americans;
- Taxpayer-funded scientific research that becomes part of the public domain and informs policy and regulatory decisions affecting our health, safety, and environment;
- Restoration and strict enforcement of the Freedom of Information Act and Open Meetings Act to ensure open and honest government;
- Enforcement of sunshine laws and transparency in sessions that discuss and make public policy;
- Open Data initiatives to make federal, state, and local government more transparent and accountable to the people of Washington and the people of the United States including full access to personnel files for current and former members and employees of the legislature except where such information is otherwise protected by law such as HIPAA or the Privacy Act;
- Requiring paid voter signature gatherers for ballot initiatives to prominently display a placard stating who they work for and who is paying them;

- Government shall make voting as easy as possible by removing all obstacles to voting and increasing access to voting for marginalized groups;
- All U.S. citizens should be registered to vote at their 18th birthday;
- Any attempts to interfere with voting, recording, storing, and tallying votes shall be punishable by law;
- Making voting easier for our military and other citizens living overseas;
- Equitable access to the voting process should be available to all Americans whatever their health, place of residence, economic status, race, religion, criminal status, Legal Financial Obligation repayment status or gender;
- Making voter suppression illegal;
- Legislation to protect the integrity and transparency of federal elections by establishing disclosure requirements for all contributions;
- Preserving the integrity of electoral processes;
- All votes should be cast on carefully monitored, secured human-readable paper ballots, and the machines used to produce, tabulate, store, and manage election data must use open-source software;
- Mandatory auditing of the election process and results shall be conducted as recommended by the American Statistical Association, and be required for all jurisdictions, and open to the public to witness;
- Campaign and debate processes that include third-party and so-called second-tier candidates;
- Equal access to public airwaves for all legally filed candidates in all localities and in all national, state, and local elections;
- Electoral processes intended to increase voter participation and confidence in our electoral system, including such significant changes as mail-in voting with pre-paid postage with optional day of voting in a public polling place, multi-member districts with proportional representation, and instant runoff voting (ranked choice voting);
- Public financing of elections to promote a more even playing field where all Americans can participate, thus empowering the people in the political process;
- Redistricting Washington State by a citizen-driven process to create more politically and demographically balanced districts;
- Limits on private and corporate funding of campaigns;
- Abolition of the interstate cross-check program;
- When discrepancy is detected by audit and not resolved by recounts a new election shall be conducted;
- A Constitutional amendment providing for direct election of the United States President and Vice President;
- Ending the practice of unpledged delegates in the presidential primary process;
- Requiring presidential candidates to disclose their tax returns and all vested interests prior to getting their names on Washington's ballot;
- Elected officials are employees of the people and are responsible to society as a whole;
- Government is not a business. Government actions should support the common good, and taxes should be levied fairly and spent responsibly;
- Government should be protected from undue influence by corporate, foreign and other special interests;
- Government officials must be held to the highest standards of ethical conduct and that there be consequences for misconduct;
- Restrictions on former state and federal elected officials from paid lobbying for at least five years after leaving office;
- Prosecution of government employees (elected or non-elected) who violate laws under the guise of doing their job (color of law) including judges;

- Full and timely public disclosure of sources of all campaign funds including contribution limits, spending limits, and disclosure of campaign contributions;
- State funding of inclusive public debates for statewide offices and ballot measures;
- Minimizing the influence of special interests and lobbyists on our political processes by instituting campaign finance reform;
- All regulatory agencies to be adequately funded, staffed and fully accountable;
- Adequate and equitable funding of public service options for all in need of work or work experience, including AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, Job Corps, and other avenues of service;
- Enactment of revenue measures by simple-majority votes in the Washington State Legislature, as specified in the State Constitution;
- Accounting all tax exemptions as expenditures in the state budget and automatically sun-setting non-performing state tax exemptions after five years;
- Inclusion of funding of all military actions in open Congressional budgets;
- Establishment of a state bank to handle and profit from state revenues;
- Increased funding for broadcast of the legislature, not allowing lobbyists to attend meetings where the public is not included;
- Repeal of American Legislative Exchange Council's nonprofit status;
- Disclose top 5 donors to PACs or Committees;
- A publicly searchable database of all registered lobbyists, lobbying expenditures, and financial and in-kind contributions to candidates and ballot measures at the state and federal level;
 - Engaging with the political process through nonviolent action is the preferred way to advocate for political change;
- Establishing a cabinet-level Department of Peace and Nonviolent Conflict Resolution whose Secretary will advise the President on both domestic and international issues and fund programs proven to prevent violence;
- In the introduction of gender-blind universal service for all U.S. citizens, with allowance for alternatives to military service to benefit the nation and our citizenry;
- A review of all Washington laws on "eminent domain" to ensure that no private property may be taken for private purposes and that all seizures are compensated in a fair and equitable manner;
- Full Congressional representation for residents of the District of Columbia and statehood for any U.S. Territory that votes for it;
- Public utilities for potable water, sewage disposal, drainage management, roads, energy, and telecommunications that are, to the maximum extent feasible, publicly owned and operated;
- Federal legislators shall be given enough time to read bills before they go to the floor;
- Counting felons, for census purposes, as residents of their last home address, rather than their place of imprisonment;
- Adequately fund every census moving forward;
- Removal of citizenship question on the US Census;
- A census counts people, the basis of apportionment shall be to the person;
- Adequately counting Queer, LGBTQ+ and those who otherwise identify, by households and individuals in the US Census.
- Providing basic Education (especially to low income communities) on how to work with the justice system (both Civil and Criminal cases) prior to their need for it;
- Basic human rights for all people confined in various facilities, including those confined in jails, prisons or mental facilities (including elder care dementia wards);
- Breaking the school-to-prison pipeline;
- Absolutely no leniency for judicial corruption at any level;

- Equal treatment under the law and by the court for public officials, police officers and ordinary citizens;
- Equal justice available for all court cases: Providing adequate funding for indigent defendants in criminal, civil, and family court cases;
- Asset seizures to be based on court conviction rather than mere arrest or presumption of guilt;
- Increased government efforts, including data collection, and legislation to address adequate minority representation on juries;
- Ongoing cultural sensitivity training for all public service government employees;
- Prohibition of arrest or detention on behalf of judgments for private debt collection corporations, also known as debtor examination warrants.
- Prohibition of the sale of court fines and fees to private debt collectors;
- Determinate sentencing, with the provision that judges must supply in writing reasons for exceeding limits;
- Restoring habeas corpus for citizens and non-citizens, completely and without compromise;
- Reform of the state adult guardianship system;
- Comprehensive criminal justice reform rooted in a national commitment to identify, challenge, and eliminate the underlying conditions in our criminal justice system that give rise to the disproportionately negative treatment of people based upon race, class, sexual orientation and gender identity, religion or disability;
- Immediate and comprehensive action to end racial profiling and the disproportionately high imprisonment of people of color, and to reduce the U.S.'s overall incarceration rate, which is the highest in the world;
- An end to using prisons to house persons with mental health or addiction issues;
- Ending the privatization of prisons and juvenile detention facilities and the use of forced and/or undercompensated prison labor to generate corporate profits;
- Abolition of solitary confinement;
- Repealing the death penalty;
- Allowing the incarcerated to retain their voting rights;
- Alternatives to money bail for those charged with crimes;
- Abolishment of the Three Strike laws;
- No "warehousing" of prisoners;
- No withholding treatments for trans- and gender- nonconforming inmates;
- The creation and funding of alternatives to incarceration within the criminal justice system at both the pre-conviction stage and the post-conviction stage;
- Incarceration that prioritizes rehabilitation, with a focus on education and occupational training;
- Providing all ex-offenders with the opportunity to re-enter and be productive members of society with an assistance plan for transitional food, clothing, housing, and employment for each person released from a local, state or federal institution;
- Rapid and consistent follow-up from probation services for violations;
- Allowing foreign nationals to have access to consular officials if accused of a crime;
- Provision of a skilled interpreter and immigration assistant and community advocacy representative for all individuals, prior to the signing of any document that affects immigration status;
- Human rights and open hearings for all immigrants;
- Elimination of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) intervention in our local court system;
- All U.S. Territories and protectorates, including the Mariana Islands and Guantanamo Bay, to be subject to U. S. law including labor laws, due process, habeas corpus, and laws against illegal detention;
- Repealing the USAPATRIOT Act;
- Enforcement of the Hate Crime Prevention Act;

- Congress and the U.S. Justice Department to investigate possible war crimes by any administration;
- Training for law enforcement and corrections officers how to serve more appropriately people with mental or behavioral health issues so that officers are better prepared to address all situations in a safe and humane manner;
- Repeal of “Stand Your Ground” laws that legalize shooting-first;
- Police forces to: be demilitarized, be held accountable for abusive practices, exercise restraint in their dealing with peaceful assemblies and protests;
- Stop the excessive use of force in any situation;
- State and local governments must direct and train law enforcement to recognize that sex workers against whom a crime has been committed have the same right to police protection as any other constituent and should be treated with the same respect for their dignity;
- Efforts to improve community-police relations by exploring strategies to provide civilian oversight or review of situations where human and civil rights concerns arise regarding police practices;
- Better support for the efforts of well-trained first responders;
- Ending the war on drugs;
- Data-driven drug education, better funded drug courts, timely treatment and community-based aftercare for offenders who need it;
- Repealing the ban on medical marijuana research and fund such research by the National Institutes of Health (NIH);
- Convictions for possession of marijuana to be expunged and such prisoners immediately released;
- Full funding of the Violence Against Women Act, services to crime victims, and programs to prevent sexual violence;
- Timely DNA testing to free the innocent and convict the guilty;
- Legislation to ensure full funding and prompt completion of backlogged rape kits and that the accumulation of backlog will not be allowed in the future;
- Investigation and prosecution of illegal actions of elected officials and corporate officers no matter how high their office;
- Adequate punishments for white collar crime, including appropriate fines and jail time commensurate with the damage done to society;
- Criminal asset forfeiture should be tightly bound to victim restitution and mitigation of harm;
- Supporting survivors and honoring, respecting and assuming credibility of their stories;
- Courageous conversations in our communities and across the nation about the race- and class-based challenges we face in fostering trust in community-police relations;
- No funding of law enforcement agencies by civil or criminal asset forfeiture;
- Affirming and valuing the role of law enforcement in protecting human life and serving the community and prioritizing de-escalation techniques;
- Making it a jailable offense to use civil litigation as a means to harass and sanction whistle blowers;
- No judge to disallow a jury trial as per RCW 3.50.135;
- All civil cases involving loss of rights to either party MUST be allowed a trial by jury before or after those rights are removed unless both parties state otherwise. This may include a jury trial after a hearing that removes rights as in Vulnerable Adult Protection Orders and Anti-harassment orders are issued;
- Any civil case deemed an “emergency” and pushed to court in less time than allowed by civil rules and law must be allowed a re-hearing if either party wants it using the normal civil rules and laws;
- Prosecution of lawyers and judges who violate their oath or duties under admittance to WSBA as per RCW 2.48.220.
- Efforts by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to promote local ownership and diversity of viewpoints and reduce monopolization of media outlets;

- Reinstatement of station ownership caps, which were repealed in 1996, to limit the number of television stations, newspapers and other news outlets one media conglomerate may own and operate;
- Encouraging media ownership by women and minorities, and community media ownership;
- Strengthening community-level, non-profit and non-commercial radio and TV;
- Ample funding, free of political pressure, for public broadcasting to promote independence and discourage reliance on corporate sponsorships;
- Internet neutrality laws and policies, so that a few media companies will not have undue control over Internet search results and Internet content;
- Bringing the U.S. up to world standards by providing affordable, high-quality Internet access for all in every region in the country especially the expansion of broadband into rural areas;
- Management of broadcast frequencies and the Internet, which are owned by the public, in a way that serves the public interest;
- FCC enforcement of existing statutes that require disclosure of “true identity” of sponsors of political advertising;
- Diversity of ownership and programming as the primary principle of broadcast licensing;
- Reinstatement of the Fairness Doctrine for broadcast media and making it applicable to cable networks, to promote greater balance in coverage;
- The enforcement of 47 USC § 315 - Candidates for Public Office. (The Equal Opportunities requirement; censorship prohibition; allowance of station use; news appearances exception; public interest; public issues discussion opportunities to all government-controlled bandwidth and full funding and strict enforcement thereof); and extension to all publicly regulated media outlets;
- Separate financial and editorial departments of news media companies;
- Reporting from warzones to be free of censorship, except as necessary to avoid revealing tactical information or endangering our troops;
- Prompt adjudication of claims of “national security” and other questionable classifications that delay timely news investigations and suppress investigative journalism and timely response to freedom of information act requests;
- Journalists to be protected from unwarranted pressure to reveal their sources;
- Privacy of personal information including account user names and passwords;
- Protection and privacy of data created through a person’s on-line presence and activities;
- Promotion of media literacy.
- Military service on our behalf to be performed only by individuals accountable to the public, the law, and the Uniform Code of Military Justice, not by contractors exempt from those restrictions;
- Military members who declare themselves conscientious objectors to be given due process without fear of reprisal;
- Increased funding for investigative units under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) for full prosecution of all sexual assaults, and of harassment based on gender, religion, ethnicity, or sexual orientation, by military personnel;
- Removing jurisdiction, in cases of alleged sexual assault between members of the US military, from the direct chain of command over either the complainant or the accused;
- Training our armed forces to respect the common dignity and civil rights of human beings;
- Troops to be accorded mandatory breaks between overseas tours, strict time limits on each tour of duty in a combat zone, and a strict limit on the total number of combat tours;
- Congressional review of overseas military installations commensurate with the work of the Base Closure Commission for domestic facilities;
- Providing financial assistance, child care assistance, and no-cost life insurance supplements for families of all military personnel deployed to hostile or combat areas;

- Ensuring that military personnel retain full enlistment bonuses despite being discharged for service-related and/or combat related disabilities;
- Enforcement of the Geneva Conventions, through all levels of command, in the treatment of all prisoners of war, enemy combatants, and detainees, regardless of the location of their incarceration;
- Senior civilian and military leaders being held accountable for the orders they give and responsible for the consequences thereof, and for protection of military personnel from reprisals for refusal to follow illegal orders;
- The cessation of using enhanced interrogation techniques;
- A minimum five percent reduction in defense spending every year for five years;
- Providing all veterans with full, timely, no-cost treatment at local military or VA medical facilities, regardless of the nature/character of their discharge, and providing retraining for those who are disabled;
- Fully funding VA services;
- Modernizing the VA hiring process in particular, and USA Jobs in general, to match private sector benchmarks for applicant processing and hiring completion;
- Adequate funding for long-term care and treatment of veterans at military medical facilities, including treatment for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury;
- Active outreach to provide access to housing and services for homeless vets, and to enable homeless veteran communities to be established through alternative shelter opportunities;
- Providing separate job training and apprenticeship programs for veterans, that will partner with labor and industry to provide immediate transition into guaranteed employment;
- Encouraging employers to award veteran's preference in hiring, and requiring employers with government contracts to have a veteran's set-aside in hiring to fulfill those contracts;
- Elimination of the Survivor's Benefit Plan (SBP) Social Security offset when a widowed military spouse reaches age 62;
- Environmental and impact cleanup from the development, deployment, and use of nuclear, biological, chemical, or "depleted" uranium (dU) weapon systems;
- Modifying the Military Claims Act to provide legal assistance to those filing military-related claims for property loss, personal injury or wrongful death, and to increase the claims limitation to \$10,000,000;
- Identification of standards-based criteria for service in combat arms.

We Oppose:

- Preemptive war;
- Exportation of offensive weapons systems, such as "depleted" uranium (dU), chemical, nuclear, or biological weapons, that contribute to destabilization in international relations and the international arms race;
- Extraordinary rendition, the abduction of persons of any nationality, their detention in secret prisons, and torture;
- Rape as a tool of war, and the lack of action to stop such rapes from occurring;
- Trade agreements negotiated in secret without public-interest representation;
- Foreign policies that put the interests of corporations above the rights, laws, and interests of governments or workers;
- Forced austerity measures, including privatization of government services, as a condition of U.S. aid and U.S. support for loans through the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank;
- The Washington [DC] Consensus existing through the neo-liberal agenda of outsourcing, deregulation, privatization, union-busting, and corporate globalization, embodied, for example, in the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization;

- Any current or future Israeli settlements in the West Bank;
- The United States involvement in violent extremism, radicalization, and regime change;
- The sale or provision of weapons to countries that violate human rights.
- Using judicial and quasi-judicial immunity to conceal ethical violations of officers of the court including but not limited to: disregarding laws, dismissing or inventing evidence and perjury;
- Mandatory sentencing, coerced labor for detainees and inmates, prisoners outsourced out-of-state and the use of prison labor on any contract bid in the State of Washington that competes with private enterprise;
- Government spying on persons including the use of drone technology and collection of personal meta-data without a legal warrant, which is a violation of 4th Amendment protections against search and seizure;
- Exemption from independent investigation and/or prosecution of any government officer responsible for ordering or participating in violation of domestic or international law;
- Laws that criminalize free speech and peaceful assembly, regardless of the economic impacts of those protected actions;
- Existing adult guardianship laws and practices which do not respect the freedom, liberty and self-determination of individuals who are elderly (over 60) and/or disabled and which do not respect the vital role of the family;
- The offering of religious programming in our prisons without offering a secular alternative.
- Foreign nations undermining trust in media;
- Suppression of reporters by employers or other entities that have power over them;
- Mergers of broadcast and print media that threaten the unrestricted availability of information necessary to the functioning of a democratic society;
- Requiring noncommercial broadcasters to accept paid advertisements.
- Use of our military resources in unauthorized, unjustified, and/or pre-emptive wars without the formal support of Congress;
- Further production and stockpiling of nuclear, biological, chemical, or “depleted” uranium (dU) weapon systems;
- The use of active sonar in inland and U.S. coastal waters at levels that endanger wildlife;
- Unregulated use of civilian areas for military training;
- Discrimination based on gender or gender identity;
- Religious indoctrination of service members;
- U.S. training of foreign military or police forces that engage in human rights suppression;
- Privatization of the Department of Veterans Affairs, except where essential to provide care for rural clinics and other situations covered under the Veterans Choice Act.