

## Outline of my positions:

- 1 Exercise Budget Discipline
- 2 Focus on Core Functions
- 3 Respect Property as Basic Right
- 4 Use Voluntary Incentives, not coercion, whenever possible
- 5 Resist Political Pressure from public sector unions.

## Further Expansion

### 1 Spending Policy

#### A Structural Budget Reform

- i. Adopt performance-based, Priorities of Government budgeting to slow the rate of spending growth and end the chronic sense of crisis in state finances.
- ii. Place performance outcomes directly into the budget.
- iii. Adopt a 72 hour budget timeout.
- iv. Require updated six-year budget forecasts be tied to quarterly revenue forecasts or adoption of new budgets..
- v. Require completed fiscal notes before bills can be acted on.
- vi. Sell non-essential real estate holdings
- vii. Begin a “base closing” process for state programs and agencies to determine which ones can be consolidated or eliminated.

#### B State Spending Limit

Adopt Constitutional amendment to limit the growth of spending to inflation and population growth.

#### C Public Workforce Policy

- i. Restore the legislature’s authority over state collective bargaining agreements.
- ii. Adopt collective bargaining transparency
- iii. Eliminate positions vacant more than six months.
- iv. Bring state employee health care premium contributions more in line with the private sector
- v. End automatic deduction of compulsory monthly union dues from public employee paychecks
- vi. Phase in a defined-contribution retirement plan that gives state workers benefits that can never be taken away.

#### D Competitive Bidding

- i. Encourage state agencies to save money and improve service to the public by using competitive bidding authority.
- ii. Protect competitive bidding authority from being restricted or bargained away during collective bargaining negotiations.

### 2 Tax Policy

#### A Guiding principles based on equity and economic neutrality to shape changes in

Washington’s tax system, so the tax system is focused on raising needed revenue for core functions of government, not directing the choices and behavior of citizens.

#### B Seek to lower the overall tax burden to promote prosperity and opportunity for the benefit of all citizens.

- C Avoid enacting a state income tax.
  - D Encourage Congress to promote equal tax treatment among states by making state sales tax deductibility permanent.
  - E Property Tax Limitation
    - i. Enact property tax relief to reduce the financial burden government places on citizens to promote economic growth, homeownership, job creation and greater personal freedom.
    - ii. Maintain Washington’s uniformity principle when taxing property, so all classes of property owners are treated the same under the law.
  - F General Tax Limitations
    - i. Adopt a constitutional amendment requiring at two-thirds legislative vote to raise state or local taxes.
    - ii. Give tax increases an expiration date
    - iii. Like gas-tax revenue, toll revenue should be constitutionally protected.
- 3 Protecting the Environment
- A Peer Review of Environmental Science
  - B Eliminate mandated “green” building standards for public buildings, which have failed to live up to their promise and cost more than originally projected.
  - C Adopt a revenue-neutral carbon tax to encourage reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
  - D Discard Arbitrary jobs targets in favor of focusing on real goals like reducing greenhouse gas emissions or increasing energy efficiency.
  - E Policymakers should adopt and fund a plan to require state DoT officials to enlarge culverts on state roads, to open at least 250 miles of wild salmon habitat a year, until all are replaced.
- 4 Health Care
- A. Health Care Mandates
    - i. Authorize low cost, mandate free health insurance.
    - ii. Require an independent cost-benefit analysis of existing health care mandates.
    - iii. Adopt moratorium on new health care mandates.
    - iv. Urge Congress to allow interstate purchase of health insurance, so Washington residents can shop for health coverage in any state.
  - B. Health Savings Accounts and High Deductible Plans
    - i. Encourage insurance companies to enter Washington’s HAS/HDHP market to promote choice and price competition benefiting consumers.
    - ii. Exempt high deductible health plans from state community rating requirements.
    - iii. Urge Congress to make premiums for individually purchased health insurance plans, such as those accompanying HSAs, tax deductible.
    - iv. Cut the state tax on individual insurance policies.
  - C. Certificate of Need Law
    - i. Repeal Washington’s Certificate of Need Law.
    - ii. Short of repeal, scale back CoN restrictions to allow doctors, clinics and hospitals to respond to patients’ needs more quickly and efficiently.

- D. Medical Liability Reform
  - i. Cap the amount of noneconomic damages that can be awarded by a jury to \$350,000 or less.
  - ii. Eliminate joint and several liability
  - iii. Encourage far-reaching medical liability reforms such as schedules of damages, “early offer” programs and specialized medical courts.
  - iv. Strengthen effectiveness of the Medical Quality Assurance Commission.
- E. Avoid heavy-handed state regulations that block innovation in the delivery of health care services.

## 5 EDUCATION (K-12)

- A Return the education system to its core function by focusing resources on classroom instruction.
- B. Reform basic education funding to allow money to follow the child to the public school of the family’s choice. Allow principals to control their budgets and to assemble their own teaching teams.
- C. End rigid separation of programs to eliminate costly and wasteful administrative oversight. Allow more flexibility in spending education dollars, especially by local principals.
- D. Remove restrictive class size requirements and other regal restrictions to allow more flexibility and innovation in spending education dollars.
- E. Create a transparent accounting system to inform policymakers and the public about who education dollars are spent.
- F. TEACHER Quality
  - i. Raise teacher quality by reforming teacher pay.
  - ii. Hire teachers based on their proven experience and mastery of academic subject matter, particularly in math and science, rather than on number of teaching certificates earned or school of education requirements met.
  - iii. Put local principals in charge of hiring the teaching staff for their own schools, so they can select teachers based on the learning needs of their students.
  - iv. Allow local principals to fire or suspend bad teachers, and hold principals accountable for teacher performance, and yearly progress in student learning.
- G Teacher Pay
  - i. Change the automatic single salary pay grid so that teacher pay is based on ability to educate children, not on arbitrary degree requirements or years of employment.
  - ii. Give local principals management control over their own school’s budget & teaching staff.
  - iii. Establish school oversight at the district level and an appeals process to ensure fair treatment of teachers. Allow superintendents to fire ineffective or abusive principals.
- H. Student Testing and Achievement
  - i. Improve/replace the WASL with an OBJECTIVE text based on the highest-quality academic standards available, so that students are fairly judged based on an objective test which does not change from year to year.
  - ii. Offer more practical career and technical education classes for graduating high school students who choose to enter the workforce instead of going on to college.

- iii. Make a Washington state diploma a recognized sign of a good education, by raising the academic standard of the WASL or by choosing a better test, so it more closely matches respected, national tests like the NAEP.
- I Universal Preschool and All-Day Kindergarten
    - i. Public policy should support stable, long-term relationships between parents and young children.
    - ii. Encourage voluntary participation and avoid programs based on universal or mandatory participation.
    - iii. Respect parental choice by making early learning public assistance portable and child-centered, not fixed and provider-centered.
    - iv. Build on innovation in the private market, as providers compete to offer flexible, high-quality services that serve the needs of families.
    - v. Allow voluntary professional memberships, so child care providers are not required to join a union against their will.
  - J Encourage public school officials to expand online public education opportunities, so this learning option is available to any willing student.
- 6 Business Climate
- A Improving the Business climate
    - i. Amend or repeal law and regulations that impede business innovation and entrepreneurship.
    - ii. Repeal laws and regulations that no longer serve a public purpose and only work to keep competitors out of the marketplace.
    - iii. Require the governor to review and approve new agency regulations.
  - B. Small Business Access to Health Insurance
    - i. Legalize the sale of basic health insurance plans to small businesses.
    - ii. Allow small business owners to purchase health plans in any state, just like other types of insurance.
    - iii. Freeze health care mandates until the cost and benefit of current mandates are studied (and those with negative reports are repealed.)
    - iv. Encourage affordable access to Health Savings Accounts.
  - C. Regulatory Reform
    - i. Regulate for results, not for process.
    - ii. Reorganize the Office of Regulatory Assistance into an Office of Regulatory Reform, that would identify regulations that duplicate or contradict each other, are outdated or do more harm than good.
  - D. Unemployment Insurance Reform
    - i. Bring state benefits more in line with the national average.
    - ii. Allow workers to have personal unemployment accounts.
    - iii. Increase benefit compliance audits
    - iv. Require training or community service as a condition of receiving benefits.
  - E Repeal the Washington estate, gift and inheritance tax.
  - F Business and Occupation Tax Reform
    - i Reduce the harmful effects of B&O tax pyramiding.
    - ii Reduce taxes for all businesses; do not just shift the tax burden among businesses.
    - iii Increase the transparency of the B&O tax

G Provide B&O tax relief for new and small businesses.

7 Government Accountability

A Restrict the use of the emergency clause to genuine emergencies, and adopt constitutional limitations on its use

B Open-Government Reforms

- i. Create a Public Records Ombudsman authorized to enforce the Public Records Act.
- ii. Clarify the use of the attorney client-privilege exemption.
- iii. Create criminal penalties for willful violation of the Public Records Act.
- iv. Require audio taping of executive sessions
- v. The legislature should make itself subject to the Public Records Act and Open Public Meetings Act.
- vi. Adopt a constitutional amendment placing the preamble of the Public Records Act in the the constitution, and require a 60 percent vote of lawmakers to enact a new exemption from disclosure to take effect.

C Adopt constitutional reform that requires a two-thirds vote of the legislature to amend a voter-approved initiative.

8 Labor Policy

A Improving Workers' Compensation

- i. Legalize private workers' compensation insurance and move the system towards greater choice and competition.
- ii. Allow small groups and associations to self-insure.
- iii. Increase fraud prevention efforts.
- iv. Clarify the calculation of benefits
- v. Bring benefit levels more in line with those in other states.

B Minimum Wage and Living Wage

- i. Decouple automatic minimum wage increases from the Puget Sound Consumer Price Index to reflect the true cost of living across the state.
- ii. Delay automatic increases in years when state unemployment is higher than the national average.
- iii. Allow restaurants to count tip income as part of normal minimum wage earnings, of employment costs in one industry are not artificially inflated.
- iv. Refrain from imposing mandatory "living wage" controls, whether or not directed at a particular industry.

C Minimize state regulation of the low-income temporary labor market to promote job opportunities for low-income workers.

D Mandatory Paid Sick Leave and Paid Family Leave

- i. Avoid imposing a mandatory, on-size-fits all sick leave policy on Washington business owners and their employees. Allow employers to retain flexibility in setting compensation and benefits.
- ii. Repeal the Paid Family Leave Insurance program until sufficient long-term funding can be identified or transform the mandate into a voluntary program.

E. Do not impose a restrictive "Fair Share" health benefit mandate on the Washington labor market.

## 9 High Tech Policy

### A. Cyber Security and Identity Theft

- i. Enhance privacy laws, based on consumer notice, consent and security, to limit how companies share sensitive customer information with outside organizations.
- ii. Keep burden on government, not citizens, to justify when private information must be shared.
- iii. More public education – state agencies should continue to work with federal agencies to identify area of need for increased data security.

### B. Access to Broadband

- i. Freeze or reduce taxes in telecommunications and wireless to foster growth
- ii. Encourage market forces to expand broadband service wired/wireless into rural areas.
- iii. Adopt a “hands-off” approach to regulation and taxing advance in telecommunications and technology industries.

### C. State government should evaluate the need for increased telework options for state workers thereby establishing a “best practices” approach to teleworking/telecommuting.

### D. High Tech Education

- i. Encourage scholastic achievement in the areas of science, technology and mathematics.
- ii. Retool the education system to better prepare students for careers in engineering, science and technology.
- iii. Increase infrastructure investment in higher education geared toward science, engineering and mathematics.

### E. County and local officials should follow the state government’s example and create a free, searchable website of public spending.

## 10 Transportation

### A Transportation Spending

- i. Implement performance measures that tie spending to congestion relief.
- ii. Implement performance audit recommendations by State Auditor investigations.
- iii. End the practice of the stat charging itself sales tax for transportation projects.
- iv. Save 15 percent on transportation projects by using market-based labor pricing, instead of artificially-inflated prevailing wage system.

### B. Freedom of Mobility

- i. Respect people’s choices and allow for a greater freedom of mobility by actively working to *reduce* traffic congestion.
- ii. Reduce spending on costly and ineffective fixed route mass transit.
- iii. Increase general purpose lane capacity and focus on relieving traffic chokepoints.

### C. Transportation Spending Based on Market Demand

- i. Use consumer demand to prioritize projects and spending
- ii. Adopt a policy of fixing chokepoints and strategic increases in road capacity as the most effective ways to end traffic gridlock and allow citizens more freedom of movement.

### D. Freight Mobility

- i. Create a freight budget account for freight-specific projects.

- ii. Increase heavy rail capacity to allow medium and long range freight distribution greater ability to shift from road to rail.
  - iii. Create freight-only lanes and corridors to support rapid pass-through for long range and local freight distribution.
- E. Competitive Contracting
- i. Establish clear oversight guidelines for managing any new competitive contracting system
  - ii. Encourage an atmosphere of healthy competition where private companies compete with state employees and other contractors to perform public work, like highway maintenance.
  - iii. End state funding for research designed to derail the competitive contracting process.
- F. Sound Transit
- i. Hold public vote on whether Sound Transit should collect taxes beyond the ten year limit of its original plank, based on the agency's performance in fulfilling promises made to voters in 1996.
  - ii. Require Sound Transit to maintain its promise to voters by rolling back phase one taxes.
  - iii. Require that Phase One of Sound Transit Light Rail be completed and its effectiveness measured (by outside audit) before more ambitious light rail projects are considered.
  - iv. Adopt Bus Rapid Transit as more effective alternative to light rail.
  - v. Policymakers and the public should consider whether diverting significant transportation taxes toward light rail transit and away from other programs and services is worth the cost.
- G. Tolling Policy and HOT Lanes
- i. Use toll road and High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes to expand road capacity and reduce traffic congestion without increasing the general tax burden.
  - ii. Tolls should only be implemented on new capacity or to replace an existing facility.
  - iii. If the goal of placing a toll on a roadway is to manage demand, the tolled facility must provide drivers with a non-tolled alternative.
  - iv. Toll revenue should be constitutionally protected from general fund spending.
  - v. Money from tolls should be spent only on the road where the tolls were collected.