

PLATFORM OF THE SKAGIT COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

**As presented to and approved by
the Skagit County Democratic Convention
March 24, 2018**

Our Vision

The Skagit County Democratic Party sees a bright future with broad participation of diverse groups working together to create a healthy, sustainable, equitable society incorporating government of the people, by the people, for the people including recognition of the rights of all people present in this country.

Our Mission

The Skagit County Democratic Party is an inclusive political organization that seeks to elect Democrats committed to the core values of our constituents and the Platform of the Washington State Democratic Party.

Preamble

*Excerpts from President Franklin D. Roosevelt's
State of the Union message to Congress, January 11, 1944*

"This Republic had its beginning, and grew to its present strength, under the protection of certain inalienable political rights - among them the right of free speech, free press, free worship, trial by jury, freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures. They were our rights to life and liberty.

As our nation has grown in size and stature, however, - as our industrial economy expanded - these political rights proved inadequate to assure us equality in the pursuit of happiness. We cannot be content, no matter how high the general standard of living may be, if some fraction of our people - whether it be one-third or one-fifth or one-tenth - is ill-fed, ill-clothed, ill-housed, and insecure.

We have come to a clear realization that true individual freedom cannot exist without economic security and independence. People who are hungry and out of a job are the stuff of which dictatorships are made.

In our day, these economic truths have become accepted as self-evident. We have accepted, so to speak, a second Bill of Rights under which a new basis of security and prosperity can be established for all - regardless of station, race, or creed. Among these are:

- The right to a useful and remunerative job in the industries or shops or farms or mines of the nation;
- The right to earn enough to provide adequate food and clothing and recreation;
- The right of every farmer to raise and sell his products at a return which will give him and his family a decent living;
- The right of every businessman, large and small, to trade in an atmosphere of freedom from unfair competition by monopolies at home or abroad;
- The right of every family to a decent home;
- The right to adequate medical care and the opportunity to achieve and enjoy good health;
- The right to adequate protection from the economic fears of old age, sickness, accident, and unemployment;
- The right to a good education.

49 America's own rightful place in the world depends in large part upon how fully these and similar rights
50 have been carried into practice for our people."
51

52 **Our Platform**
53

54 **As Democrats we respect the rights guaranteed by our Constitution that support:**

- 55 • Economic Opportunity;
- 56 • Social and Civil Justice;
- 57 • Personal Freedom;
- 58 • Security;
- 59 • Privacy.

60
61 **We are dedicated to achieving peace, prosperity, and opportunity.**
62

63 **Our platform rests on the principles that there should be:**

- 64 • Security for all;
- 65 • Education, jobs and economic opportunity for all;
- 66 • Accessible and affordable healthcare for all;
- 67 • Rebuilding of our reputation in the world as a cooperative and just country;
- 68 • Reversal of the erosion of civil liberties in our country;
- 69 • Recognition that diversity strengthens our nation
- 70 • Economic and social policies that protect the environment.

71
72 Skagit County Democrats adopt this platform to ensure that voters and candidates for public office
73 understand and support our goals. Elected officials should adhere to this platform.
74
75

Agriculture

76

77 **Agriculture is an important industry in Washington State, and we support programs to insure the**
78 **availability of high-quality food, and to preserve family farms to maintain the viability of the land.**

79 **We support:**

- 80 • Policies that promote and encourage safe, clean local food production;
- 81 • The production of food in close proximity to consumers in Washington State;
- 82 • The use of household gardens for food production;
- 83 • Food production and small farm classes in Washington State schools;
- 84 • Industrial hemp as a source of jobs in the growing, processing, manufacture and
85 export of industrial hemp and hemp-based products;
- 86 • Legislation requiring the clear labeling of foods containing GMOs, and Country of Origin
87 Labeling;
- 88 • Legislation that bans the use of the pesticides glyphosate (Roundup) and neonicotinoids (believed
89 to be the central cause of bee colony collapse) in Washington State.

90 **We oppose:**

- 91 • Food production and distribution that depends on energy inefficient machinery;
- 92 • The production, processing and transportation of food by large unaccountable corporations that
93 rob the consumer of knowledge about food products and stifle the local economy;
- 94 • The use of prime agricultural lands for non-agricultural uses.

95

96 **Economic Development, Corporate Power, & Media Reform**

97 **We believe that corporate influence on the political process should end.**

98 **We support legislation that:**

- 99 • Protects people from malfeasance committed by corporations by holding corporations accountable
100 for their actions;
- 101 • Holds subject to criminal prosecution corporate executives who make decisions that cause great
102 suffering or death;
- 103 • Requires corporations to compensate victims of corporate malfeasance;
- 104 • Ensures the wealthiest Americans pay a fair share of taxes;
- 105 • Creates a bill establishing a state bank known as the Washington State Trust;
- 106 • Says corporations are not people;
- 107 • Reinstates Dodd-Frank and Glass-Steagell laws.

108 **We believe Americans have the right to rent or own safe, affordable housing within their means.**

109 **We support:**

- 110 • Rescinding RCW 35.21.830 and 36.01.130, allowing local authorities to regulate rent, while
111 respecting the right of landlords to earn a profit and maintain their properties;
- 112 • Washington, as a progressive state, leading the nation in establishing public policy that provides
113 all residents the opportunity for safe, healthy, affordable homes in thriving communities.

114

115 **We believe that the free flow of information is fundamental to democracy.**

116 **We call on Congress and the Federal Communications Commission to:**

- 117 • Strengthen media ownership regulations to limit the number of newspapers and media outlets one
118 corporation may own;
- 119 • Make presidential debates, run by a non-partisan commission, open to all candidates who meet a
120 defined threshold of support;
- 121 • Provide adequate funding for Public Broadcasting, including small rural stations.

122 **We believe net neutrality is a high priority for Washington State and the country and oppose any**
123 **federal efforts to rescind or block it.**

124 **We support:**

- 125 • The Skagit County Democratic Party respectfully urging the Washington State Legislature to
126 continue to protect net neutrality, open Internet access, the federal Lifeline program's discounted
127 telephone service for qualifying low-income consumers, and the E-rate program's discounted
128 telecommunication and Internet access services for schools and libraries by passing House Bill
129 2282;
- 130 • The Skagit County Democrat Party respectfully urging the Congress of the United States to pass
131 similar legislation to be applied nationwide.

133 Education

134 **We believe that all children have a right to a quality education.**

135 **We recommend multiple metrics for high-stakes decisions in public education besides standardized**
136 **testing in light of the following:**

- 137 • There is a local and national tendency to rush toward standardized testing for high stakes decisions
138 in public education, despite mounting evidence that standardized tests penalize students who are
139 second-language speakers and from lower socioeconomic groups;
- 140 • The funds being spent to support these high-stakes standardized tests could more effectively go
141 toward proven methods of effective learning, such as smaller class size.

142 **We support:**

- 143 • Establishing facilities and programs that advance vocational and technical education;
- 144 • Legislation for fully funding pre-school through grade 12 and technical education;
- 145 • Legislation that substantially funds public colleges, universities, and technical schools;
- 146 • Legislation that lowers the interest rate on student loans and finds ways to relieve the financial
147 stress of college students and graduates burdened with huge student debt;
- 148 • Legislation that will finance the McCleary decision to Washington State schools and fully fund
149 basic education.

151 Environment & Energy

152 **A. Energy: We believe it is imperative that every citizen of the United States practices energy**
153 **conservation measures as we pursue alternative sources of energy to relieve our dependence**
154 **on fossil fuels.**

155 **We support:**

- 156 • Continued research into the cost, efficiency and environmental impacts of proposed alternative
157 energy production methods;

- 158 • A just transition to alternative forms of energy and fuel demonstrated to be clean, safe, renewable,
159 sustainable, and cost effective;
- 160 • Transfer of technologies to developing nations to promote their use of renewable energy;
- 161 • Acknowledging the seriousness and urgency of climate change;
- 162 • Promoting subsidies for energy conservation, efficiency measures and alternative renewable
163 energy sources;
- 164 • Creating economic incentives for companies that produce, install, and service renewable
165 technologies;
- 166 • Disallowing coal terminal construction in the state unless the facility can satisfy a review of
167 economic, social, and environmental costs including state and National Environmental Policy Act
168 review, Environmental Impact Statement, Health Impact Assessment, and Economic Impact
169 Assessment of both the facility and any changes to be made in the state's infrastructure due to the
170 facility;
- 171 • Increasing fees and royalties on coal mining and mineral extraction on Federal lands to an
172 equitable rate.

173 **We believe that it is unacceptable that the United States has withdrawn from the Paris Climate**
174 **Accord without a reasonable alternative for mitigating climate change.**

175 **We support:**

- 176 • The Democratic Party calling for re-adherence to the Paris Climate Accord.

177 **B. Environment: We further believe that protection of the environment is essential to**
178 **maintaining a strong economy for the long term.**

179 **We support:**

- 180 • Programs that protect air and water quality;
- 181 • Programs that support the preservation and restoration of wild salmon runs and habitat;
- 182 • Water conservation measures;
- 183 • Restoration and maintenance of adequate in-stream flows for fish and wildlife with due
184 consideration to the rights of private residential and agricultural property owners.

185 **We support legislation designed to:**

- 186 • Require most packaging to be recyclable. Preserve and grow environmentally clean jobs in
187 Washington State.;
- 188 • Preserve our National Parks and Wildlife Preservation Areas;
- 189 • Encourage the development and construction of new infrastructure that will remove carbon
190 dioxide from the atmosphere as well as reducing the amount of carbon dioxide being emitted.

191 **We support legislation requiring all motor vehicle manufacturer and dealer advertising for all new**
192 **motor vehicles manufactured after 2020 to include the following information developed by the U.S.**
193 **Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy:**

- 194 • EPA miles per gallon of fuel estimates;
- 195 • Estimated annual tons of carbon dioxide emitted (carbon footprint);
- 196 • The number of barrels of oil required annually for average use.

197 **We believe that we are stewards of our waters, forests, lands and other natural resources.**

198 **We support:**

- 199 • The continued preservation and enhancement of the Chuckanut Mountain Range of Skagit and
200 Whatcom Counties;

- 201 • The protection, restoration, and sustainable use and enjoyment of the current roadless areas,
202 wildlife corridors, trail corridors, scenic viewing areas, old growth forest and habitat for species of
203 concern on Blanchard Mountain;
- 204 • The inclusion of permanent protected-area status for the sensitive public lands in the Chuckanut
205 Mountains range;
- 206 • All Federal, State and Local agencies in their cooperative efforts to solve the flood control
207 problems in Skagit County;
- 208 • The earliest possible timeline for the creation of a permanent, statewide standing committee on
209 Sustainability and the Environment within the state Democratic Party structure, conforming to all
210 rules and bylaws of other such standing committees.

211

212

Foreign Policy

213 **We believe the United States must work cooperatively with other nations to restore our good name**
214 **in the community of nations and to promote a sustainable,**
215 **nonviolent world.**

216 **We believe that the United States of America should:**

- 217 • Support a peaceful solution to conflict in the Middle East;
- 218 • Work with other governments and the United Nations to secure fissile material to a high standard
219 and abolish nuclear weapons worldwide;
- 220 • Avoid sanctions that cause hardship to civilians;
- 221 • Suspend all military aid to any nation that violates international law;
- 222 • Lift sanctions and restore normal trade relations with Cuba.

223 **We support:**

- 224 • Legislation that sends foreign aid to address social needs, increased employment and economic
225 opportunities for the poor;
- 226 • Eliminating wasteful military spending that robs the federal treasury of money to adequately fund
227 social welfare services and job-creating programs geared to improving our deteriorating
228 infrastructure.

229 **We believe that space is not claimed, nor can it be claimed, to be solely the property of any**
230 **individual, business, or government, as space is a commons.**

231 **We support:**

- 232 • That space should not be commercialized or militarized, and all property in space shall be held by
233 the governments of the world for the benefit of the people of the world.

234

235

Government & Political Reform

236 **We believe that fair and free elections are fundamental to democracy.**

237 **We support measures to protect the integrity of our votes that include the following provisions:**

- 238 • Voting processes should be owned and operated in the public domain;
- 239 • There must be a voter-verified paper ballot for every vote cast which will be the legal ballot of
240 record;
- 241 • Additional uniform nationwide standards should be determined by a non-partisan, nationally
242 recognized commission;

- 243 • Election Day should be made a national holiday;
- 244 • All votes must be counted publicly and locally in the presence of citizen witnesses and
- 245 credentialed members of the media;
- 246 • Spot check audits conducted on 5% of all voting machines; these audits shall compare machine
- 247 results with results obtained by human eyes;
- 248 • Making voter suppression illegal;
- 249 • Establishing the election of our President and Vice President to be a popular vote of the people;
- 250 • Calling on the Washington State Democratic Party to study changing from a caucus format to a
- 251 primary delegate selection process.
- 252 • We support the American Correctional Association in its call to end the practice of withholding
- 253 voting rights from parolees and people who have completed their prison terms.

254 **We call on the Washington State Super Delegation to:**

- 255 • Apportion themselves between the candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination in
- 256 numbers that accurately reflect the presidential preferences of voters.

257 **In order to reduce the number of Resolutions that are not supported by data concerning their**

258 **impact to the economy, the environment, or society,**

259 **We support:**

- 260 • Inclusion of verifiable data on economic, environmental, or societal impacts in any Resolution
- 261 presented for inclusion in local, district, and state platforms.

262

263 **We believe that campaign contributions by special interests corrupt the electoral process.**

264 **We support public financing for all candidates running for state and national legislative and**

265 **executive offices.**

266 **We believe that taxpayer funded scientific research should strive to produce the best available**

267 **science to inform policy decisions affecting our health, safety, and environment.**

268 **We support:**

- 269 • Scientific openness within all federal agencies that will promote the free exchange of information
- 270 consistent with the scientific process;
- 271 • Open and transparent science-based decision-making within all federal agencies;
- 272 • Public access to government studies and findings of scientific advisory boards;
- 273 • Scientists appointed to scientific advisory committees who meet high professional standards;
- 274 • Ensuring that appointees to scientific advisory committees do not have conflicts of interest;
- 275 • Investigating and acting to expose and enforce against abuses of science for partisan political ends;
- 276 • Ensuring that federal agency scientists who speak out against the suppression or distortion of
- 277 scientific findings will not face retribution.

278 **We oppose:**

- 279 • Censorship of scientific studies and reports;
- 280 • Explicit or covert questioning of nominees to scientific advisory committees to determine their
- 281 political loyalty;
- 282 • Altering underlying scientific facts and distorting and censoring scientific findings to serve
- 283 political purposes and reach predetermined political decisions;
- 284 • Appointment to scientific panels unqualified individuals who have financial ties or regulated
- 285 industry affiliation that could represent a conflict of interest;
- 286 • The disbanding of important scientific advisory panels;

- 287 • The suppression, manipulation, and distortion of scientific research and findings for political ends.

288 **We support:**

- 289 • Creating a Department of Peace and Nonviolence;
- 290 • Calling for a Constitutional Amendment to overturn the United States Supreme Court decisions:
- 291 Citizens United vs F.E.C and Buckley vs Valeo, which construed the spending of money by
- 292 individuals, corporations and special interests in elections as protected free speech under the
- 293 Constitution;
- 294 • Lifting the income ceiling for Social Security withholdings.

295 ***We believe that the state is woefully under-prepared for earthquakes and other seismic events that can***

296 ***damage vulnerable infrastructure, including schools, public buildings, transportation, and dams.***

297 **We support:**

- 298 • Implementing the 2012 “Resilient Washington State” plan, and funding appropriated additional
- 299 earthquake preparations as indicated by analysis of the 2016 “Cascadia Rising” exercise.

300 **We believe that elected officials should adhere to the party platform.**

301

302 **Healthcare**

303 **We believe that healthcare is a basic human right, and our government should recognize its**

304 **responsibility to assure accessible, affordable healthcare for all.**

305 **We call on all Members of Congress to support and enact a single payer system that provides all**

306 **medically necessary care and ancillary services to treat illnesses, injuries, needed restorations, and**

307 **other legal medical procedures, except for elective cosmetic care.**

308 **We call on lawmakers to withhold Medicare, Medicaid and other federal or state funding from**

309 **hospitals and providers who refuse patients treatment for any legal and necessary medical**

310 **procedures.**

311 **We support:**

- 312 • Reproductive care, to include:
- 313 ○ Funding for general availability of Plan B;
- 314 ○ Free distribution of contraceptives;
- 315 ○ A woman’s right to control her own body, including the right to terminate pregnancy, to
- 316 be sterilized, and to use the contraception method deemed best between her and her
- 317 healthcare provider;
- 318 ○ Family planning services geographically accessible to all Washington residents.
- 319 • Appropriate funding and curriculum for comprehensive, medically accurate sex education for
- 320 children that shall cover, but not be limited to matters of sexually transmitted diseases, family
- 321 planning, the cost of raising a child, and the responsibilities and obligations of being a parent;
- 322 • A plan to address overpopulation in the United States and the world;
- 323 • The defense and adequate funding of Medicare and Medicaid;
- 324 • Advocating for the enactment of State Single Payer healthcare in Washington State, if not in the
- 325 entire country;
- 326 • Implementation of community health engagement locations as a harm reduction strategy for
- 327 communities affected by the current opioid epidemic;

- 328 • Legislation that provides funding for the treatment of all drug and alcohol addictions and for
329 education intended to raise the awareness of the effects of addiction;
- 330 • Fully funding the diagnosis, treatment and housing costs of our mentally ill citizens.
- 331 • Calling on the Democratic National Committee to publish credible, accurate, thorough and easily
332 read reports detailing the facts about a Single Payer Healthcare System, this to include reports on
333 HR676 “National Healthcare Act” and S1804 “Medicare for All Act of 2017”, to be published no
334 later than June 2019.
- 335

336 **Human & Civil Rights**

337 **We support the human and civil rights enumerated in the Bill of Rights and the Constitution.**

338 **We call on elected officials as well as other leaders to condemn domestic spying by agencies of the**
339 **United States Government.**

340 **We urge the Washington Congressional delegation to sponsor legislation to repeal the Patriot Act.**

341 **We oppose:**

- 342 • The recording, filing or sharing of intelligence information thru library lending records, library
343 research records, book and video store rentals, rental records, medical records, financial records,
344 student records and other personal data, even if authorized by the USA Patriot Act;
- 345 • Eavesdropping on confidential communications between lawyers and their clients.

346 **We believe that marriage and domestic partnerships are human rights and should not be restricted**
347 **by sexual orientation or gender identity.**

348 **We urge the public to refuse to sign any initiative and/or to vote against any referendum intended**
349 **to take away the rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender individuals.**

350 **We oppose any measure brought forth to interfere with the rulings by the Human Rights**
351 **Commission as well as oppose any future measure brought forth that would threaten the safety,**
352 **security and wellbeing of transgender citizens of Washington State.**

353 **We support:**

- 354 • The removal of language in Washington State RCW that states the perpetrator of rape is a person
355 who is not married to the victim and that the victim is not married to the perpetrator and is not his
356 or her spouse;
- 357 • The prosecution of perpetrators of the crime of rape/sexual assault within marriages as defined by
358 revised RCW.

359 **We believe White Supremacy and hate groups have grown in the Northwest, with hate and bias**
360 **incidents increasing by nearly 40% in the last two years.**

361 **We support:**

362 Denouncing the views and actions of White Supremacy and hate groups as incompatible with and a direct
363 threat to the values of the Skagit County Democrats.

364 **Immigration**

365 **We believe that immigration reform must be approached in a comprehensive and realistic way.**

366 **This would include, at a minimum, the following fundamental principles:**

- 367 • A path to legalization, documentation, and citizenship;

- 368 • Enacting the Dream Act allowing undocumented immigrant children to attend college and create a
369 more prepared work force, with an eventual path to citizenship;
- 370 • Programs offering immigrants instruction in English and preparation for citizenship;
- 371 • Support for local communities working to welcome newcomers and welcome them into the
372 community;
- 373 • Basic civil liberties and human rights for all;
- 374 • Due process rights for everyone;
- 375 • Immigrants' right to a drivers' license;
- 376 • Work permits, travel permission, and access to educational opportunities for undocumented
377 immigrants who have undergone background and security checks;
- 378 • A system that targets and criminalizes employers who recruit undocumented workers from abroad
379 for economic gain;
- 380 • Mechanisms to meet legitimate needs for new workers without compromising the rights and
381 opportunities of workers already here;
- 382 • A worker visa program that adequately protects wages and working conditions of U.S. and
383 immigrant workers;
- 384 • The right of immigrant workers to join or form a union;
- 385 • The right of immigrant workers to change jobs;
- 386 • Clearing the family backlogs to reunite family members who have filed legal applications;
- 387 • Condemnation of anti-immigrant legislation.
- 388 • Opposing the construction of a wall of shame on any of our borders.
- 389

390 **Labor & Economic Justice**

391 **We believe that all residents of the United States should be assured that public monies are**
392 **administered in a fair and effective manner to deliver services equitably to all.**

393 **We call on lawmakers to:**

- 394 • Take all necessary steps to help the victims of natural disasters rebuild their lives and their homes
395 through FEMA;
- 396 • Make an accounting of all disaster relief funds and expenditures;
- 397 • Support the National Housing and Trust Fund Act and support low interest loans to first time
398 home buyers;
- 399 • Immediately raise the Federal minimum wage to a living wage;
- 400 • Enact and enforce legislation that protects workers under all state and federal labor laws, including
401 the right to organize;
- 402 • Require enforcement of job safety regulations.

403 **We oppose:**

- 404 • Legislation that would lead to a decline in benefits or lead to a lessening of protections for injured
405 workers and their families;
- 406 • The Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement and other similar free trade treaties.

407 **We support laws that prohibit the exploitation of foreign and domestic workers in accordance with**
408 **the following policy:**

- 409 • Companies and nations doing business in or with the U.S. shall be required to adhere to the
410 International Labor Organization (ILO) Declaration of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work
411 including, but not limited to, the right to organize into unions and the right to collectively bargain;

- 412 • Abolition of child labor;
- 413 • Elimination of forced or compulsory labor;
- 414 • Protection of the environment;
- 415 • Elimination of discrimination;
- 416 • Elimination of tax breaks for corporations that violate ILO Principles and Rights or that lay-off
- 417 U.S. workers and move their jobs offshore;
- 418 • Prohibition on our government from moving our jobs offshore;
- 419 • Increasing labor opportunities for under-represented minorities;
- 420 • equalization of pay and promotional opportunity for women and protection from sexual
- 421 harassment;

422

423 **We believe that the conflict between protection of the environment and protection of industry**
424 **related to extraction or that cause pressure on the environment has often led to the loss of jobs,**
425 **which is not in the interest of the Skagit Democratic Party or Skagit County residents.**

426 **Therefore, We support:**

- 427 • Development of funding for a just transition of workers to new jobs, through paid training;
- 428 • Workers and environmentalists joining to initiate a nationwide Just Transition Superfund for
- 429 Congress to enact.

430

431 Law & Justice

432 **We oppose:**

- 433 • The death penalty as expensive, unfairly applied, and sometimes applied to innocents. Lifetime
- 434 incarceration is the appropriate penalty for serious crimes;
- 435 • The use of three strikes laws in cases that are not serious and dangerous crimes;
- 436 • Mandatory minimum sentences. A judge should determine whether certain circumstances should
- 437 be applied to vary sentences;
- 438 • The privatization of prisons. Inmates are not commodities. The government should also focus on
- 439 education and reform of inmates so that they reintegrate into society when released;
- 440 • The incarceration of political prisoners without due process;
- 441 • racial profiling by law enforcement.
- 442 • Laws that allow torture while a detainee is in military custody.

443 **We believe that privatization of prisons, including those used by ICE to detain immigrants, is**
444 **unwisely injecting profit motives into our correctional system.**

445 **We Support:**

- 446 • Opposing the Washington State Department of Corrections engaging in any contracts with private
- 447 prison companies, and the use of private prisons as well as City, County, or State jails to house
- 448 ICE detainees.
- 449 • Replacing the discriminatory cash bail system with proven risk-assessment techniques, such as
- 450 objective rating systems, electronic monitoring, and regular supervision, that offer alternatives to
- 451 expensive and counterproductive pre-trial detention.
- 452 • Accountability for law enforcement with effective civilian review.

453 **We support:**

- 454 • Drug laws that are fairly applied and are primarily focused upon rehabilitation. Addiction is a
455 medical problem, not a criminal matter;
456 • In those cases where drugs are used to harm others, criminal penalties need to be applied.

457 **We believe in the Second Amendment right of private citizens to keep and bear arms, but do not**
458 **believe this right extends to firearms whose only logical purpose is to maximize death and injury in**
459 **a short period of time.**

460 **We support:**

- 461 • Closing the gun-show loophole;
462 • Gun registration;
463 • Prohibiting certain individuals from gun ownership including certain mentally ill individuals,
464 those convicted of a violent crime, and people with restraining orders for domestic violence or
465 other matters;
466 • Mandating gun locks and limited access for children;
467 • Regulating certain types of high capacity guns and ammunition;
468 • Making mandatory a means for unlicensed gun sellers to do mental health and background checks,
469 the cost of which to be borne by the buyer;
470 • The passing of “Extreme Risk” protection orders that legally remove guns from the dangerous
471 hands of anyone who is in psychological crisis or has a history of violent behavior that will harm
472 themselves or others.
473 • Requiring that all gun owners purchase firearms liability insurance, to be developed by the state to
474 cover all damages from irregular and unwarranted firearm use.

475

476 **Foreign interference in our electoral process is hostile action by a foreign power.**

477 **We support:**

- 478 • The current independent investigation of Russian interference with our electoral process. The
479 investigations should continue unfettered by politics or the president's whim;
480 • Investigative bodies should be independent, populated by both parties in equal proportion;
481 • The investigation by special counsel Mueller should be unfettered and supported and any action
482 by the president to hinder the investigation or prosecution should be met by immediate
483 impeachment hearings.

484

485 **Military & War**

486 **We believe that the militaristic posture of our government has hurt the good name of the United**
487 **States in the community of nations.**

488 **We support:**

- 489 • Legislation that would return all direct combat functions to our national armed forces, dropping all
490 contracts with private sector armies;
491 • An open and fair bidding process for all national security contracts awarded by the United States;
492 • A policy assuring that all American military activities must be performed for fair wages by
493 American service personnel;
494 • Accountability for all national security contracts awarded by the United States;
495 • Implementation of standard accounting practices at the Department of Defense, such that can be
496 audited by independent entities on a regular basis.

- 497 • The United States shall adopt a policy of no first strike with nuclear weapons on any country.

498 **We believe that members of the United States Armed Services including National Guard and those**
499 **in the Reserve deserve our admiration, our gratitude, and most of all our support.**

500 **We support legislation that assures the following for veterans and service members:**

- 501 • Service members returned to the United States for discharge be provided the most convenient
502 transportation to their home at the expense of the service;
- 503 • Educational benefits for use in technical training, college, and other training that supports career
504 development;
- 505 • Complete, highest quality, and life-long healthcare benefits including psychological care,
506 psychiatric care, and treatment for Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome;
- 507 • Realistic disability payment to veterans with disabilities;
- 508 • Payment by the VA for housing and transportation when veterans require medical treatment
509 available only away from home;
- 510 • Payment by the VA for all costs for transporting the remains of the deceased service member to
511 the destination determined by the families of the deceased.

512 **We oppose:**

- 513 • Denying medical expenses to veterans due to claims of pre-existing conditions.

514

515

Transportation

516 **We believe that a healthy infrastructure, including our highways, bridges, and rail and ferry**
517 **systems are essential to the economic wellbeing of our state.**

518 **We urge immediately identifying and prioritizing transportation problems in Washington State and**
519 **establishing a viable funding plan to resolve them.**

520 **Skagit Democrats call on the Washington State Department of Transportation and the State**
521 **Legislature to end discriminatory toll roads, lanes, and bridges.**

522 **We support:**

- 523 • Calling on the State Legislature to end discriminatory toll roads, lanes and bridges;
- 524 • Calling on the State Legislature to end the hundreds of tax breaks totaling \$6 billion that benefit
525 wealthy domestic and foreign stockholders:
- 526 • And instead using the resultant revenue stream to offset State budgetary needs.

527