



# 2018

## Shared Prosperity Agenda

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After five years of legislative gridlock, the voters of Washington sent a strong message in the 2017 special election: put people first, and get to work. While this session is a short one, the Legislature has dozens of bills ready to go that will raise up workers, create opportunities for students, improve families' health, and ensure that government works for the people. This Shared Prosperity Agenda represents a roadmap to deliver on those promises.

### CREATE FAMILY-WAGE JOBS ACROSS THE STATE

- ❑ **CAPITAL BUDGET** — Due to political hostage-taking, the 2017 Legislature was unable to pass a capital construction budget. Passing it should be an early priority in 2018.
- ❑ **INFRASTRUCTURE BANK** — Instead of sending tax dollars to Wall Street to finance public infrastructure, Washington should establish its own infrastructure bank to help local governments finance projects important to their citizens. The profits on these loans would be used to fund more project—not line the pockets of big banks.
- ❑ **TAX INCENTIVE ACCOUNTABILITY** — Every year, the Legislature extends billions of dollars in tax breaks to various industries that are designed to create and maintain jobs in Washington. However, there is almost no transparency or accountability for whether the corporations that get the breaks actually create jobs.

### HEALTHY WORKERS, HEALTHY FAMILIES

- ❑ **HANFORD OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE** — While cleaning one of the most toxic places on Earth, hundreds of workers are exposed to unknown combinations of the most dangerous chemicals and radioactive materials. By adopting a presumption in our workers' compensation law that certain cancers and other illness are due to exposure to these hazards, the people of Washington will commit to helping these heroic men and women.
- ❑ **PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICE TRANSPARENCY** — The Legislature should take steps to make big pharmaceutical companies disclosure the reasons for spikes in the costs of important, life-saving medicines.
- ❑ **PESTICIDE EXPOSURE** — Far too often people in our agricultural communities are exposed to pesticides on and off the job. The Legislature should adopt modern record keeping, notification and reporting requirements that help prevent exposure and their negative health impacts.
- ❑ **INDIVIDUAL PROVIDER EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION** — Patients receiving care from individual providers should not have to worry about complex payroll systems. The Legislature will have a chance to streamline the payroll system for independent providers, which will simplify

process for case managers, improve working conditions for providers, and streamline payroll systems for the state.

- ❑ **HEALTH CARE PUBLIC OPTION** — National attacks on health care have had a significant impact on the stability and affordability of healthcare options in our state. Insurance costs to consumers have gone up 36% in just one year. Washington should lead in establishing a public healthcare option that brings insurance rates down, increases access and quality of care.
- ❑ **HOSPITAL WORKER BREAKS AND OVERTIME** — Healthcare facilities should ensure that nurses and healthcare technical workers are guaranteed access to the breaks and overtime they have earned. This will ensure those providing the best care are healthy, rested, and less prone to mistake-causing fatigue.
- ❑ **RAILROAD STAFFING** — To prevent devastating fatigue caused, train derailment accidents, railroad companies should have to meet minimum staffing levels, especially for trains carrying hazardous materials.

### LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD FOR WORKERS

- ❑ **PROTECT LOCAL AUTHORITY** — Reject all efforts to preempt local governments from adopting labor standards above-and-beyond a state-established floor.
- ❑ **EQUAL PAY OPPORTUNITY ACT** — In 2016, women earned 77 cents for every dollar paid to a man, and women of color earned even less. The Legislature should ensure that differences in pay are not driven by sex or gender, and that advancement opportunities are available to all.
- ❑ **EXPAND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING RIGHTS** — Current state law draws arbitrary lines around certain workers who are denied the right to join together to form a union. Professional port employees, part time workers, and interpreters should have the same rights to join unions as other public workers.
- ❑ **NON-COMPETE AGREEMENTS** — Far too many workers in Washington are bound by unjust non-competition contracts that prohibit programmers, doctors, engineers, musicians, cosmetologists, grocery workers, and even low-wage fast food employees from seeking better jobs in their fields. The Legislature should severely restrict their use.

(MORE on reverse)

- ❑ **FAIR CHANCE ACT** — Once a formerly incarcerated person has fulfilled their debt to society, they should be able to secure work. By waiting until after an interview to ask about criminal history, these people will have a fair chance to make their case to potential employers.
- ❑ **KEEP WASHINGTON WORKING** — Immigrants are integral to our state's thriving economy — as workers, small business owners, and entrepreneurs. By working with Department of Commerce, labor, business and immigrant advocacy organizations can develop strategies collaboratively to help support the state's current and future industries, while establishing statewide guidelines that prevent unconstitutional detention and profiling.
- ❑ **LEGAL FINANCIAL OBLIGATION REFORM** — By breaking the prison-to-debt-to-prison cycle, the Legislature can help formerly incarcerated people secure a productive future, and pay restitution to victims. Changing how the costs of jail and prison are paid and calculated can be the difference between recidivism and reform.

### GOVERNMENT MORE ACCOUNTABLE TO THE PEOPLE

- ❑ **VOTING RIGHTS ACT** — When people in a local community are consistently denied a voice in their government, it shouldn't take a federal lawsuit to right that wrong. The Washington Voting Rights Act will create a path to change discriminatory voting systems without the need for costly lawsuits.
- ❑ **DARK MONEY IN POLITICS** — Secret political spending in our elections is poisoning our politics. The Legislature should make sure that political money spent through front groups is publicly disclosed.
- ❑ **TAXPAYER ACCOUNTABILITY ACT** — Instead of shoveling tax dollars out the door, the state should adopt common-sense contracting-out standards that ensure the same accountability and transparency for services provided by contractors as they do for those provided by the state.

### EDUCATIONAL QUALITY & OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

- ❑ **BREAKFAST AFTER THE BELL** — Kids need reliable, healthy breakfasts at the start of the school day to ensure they are ready to learn. By providing all of our school children adequate nutrition, we can start to close the achievement gap and ensure that kids experiencing poverty are not stigmatized.

- ❑ **FACULTY BARGAINING** — Community and Technical Colleges should be able to utilize local funding sources in negotiations with faculty. Like the four-year colleges do, access to these local funds will help our CTCs recruit and retain top faculty, and ensure backbone of our higher education system is strong.
- ❑ **ELECTRICAL APPRENTICESHIPS** — To ensure high quality training in a dangerous and in-demand field, the Legislature should ensure that electrical licensing in Washington is tied to the completion of quality electrical apprenticeship programs.

### RETIREMENT SECURITY FOR OUR SENIORS

- ❑ **PSERS EXPANSION** — Workers employed in dangerous, important public safety jobs—like at our state mental health hospitals—are prevented from membership in the Public Safety Employees Retirement System because they work for DSHS. Workers in other agencies doing the same work are able to join PSERS. This inequity should be fixed.
- ❑ **UNEMPLOYMENT FOR CAREGIVERS** — As our workforce ages, and as retirement security ebbs, more and more workers must take time off work to provide long-term care for their aging loved ones. We should make modest adjustments to our Unemployment System so these care givers do not lose benefits because certain job opportunities conflict with their caregiving needs.
- ❑ **WORKERS' COMPENSATION SOCIAL SECURITY OFFSET** — As more retired workers return to the workforce part-time to make ends meet, the rate of injury amongst older workers has increased. We should end the practice of offsetting time-loss wage replacement for injured workers who also collect social security benefits, as these workers already face financial challenges.

### CARBON REDUCING INFRASTRUCTURE

- ❑ **BUY CLEAN** — When the state plans for infrastructure projects and begins steps toward procurement, it should prioritize low-carbon materials, produced in Washington.
- ❑ **BUILDING CODE COUNCIL** — The State Building Code Council has been over-burdened and under-funded for many years. A modest increase in residential and commercial building permit fees will help ensure the council is able to promote and enforce important safety and energy efficiency standards in our building codes.



In addition to this Shared Prosperity Agenda, the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO will support a range of issues that address economic opportunity and justice, as well as legislation championed by our affiliated unions.

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