

23rd Legislative District Democrats 2018 Platform
Adopted During The 2018 District Caucus
Saturday, March 24, 2018
North Kitsap High School Gym, Poulsbo, WA

PREAMBLE – This platform is a summary statement of our collective principles, beliefs, and goals. We reaffirm the rights guaranteed by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and expect government at all levels to champion these tenets for everyone. We believe that: Democratic principles, openly implemented through representative government, strengthen our communities and nation. Healthy communities are the foundation for a safe, stable, and prosperous future for our families, and healthy families are the foundation of enduring communities. Every individual deserves the opportunity to succeed and the right to be treated with dignity and respect. We are responsible for the ethical, economical, and environmental legacy we leave our children. Our candidates support this platform and will represent our best interests.

II. HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS – We believe in the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all humanity as the foundation of freedom and justice. We believe that water, food, shelter, universal access to health care, living wage compensation for employment, and freedom from discrimination and governmental intrusion based upon age, sex, reproductive choice, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnic origin, religion, and political beliefs are basic human rights everywhere. We support and promote all legislation that meets and fosters these basic human rights. We will fight against any narrow sectarian or philosophical views that would attempt to limit basic human rights.

III. LAW, CRIME, AND JUSTICE – In times of national peril, it is crucial to hold fast to those fundamental rights enjoyed by all Americans. We call upon local, state, and national government to zealously protect the constitutional rights and privileges of all: citizen and noncitizen alike. We believe that it is our collective responsibility to advocate for the human rights of those who are not able to advocate for themselves, including children, the poor, the elderly, individuals who are physically, mentally, or emotionally disabled, and victims of crime. We believe that the government has a basic responsibility to take all measures necessary and proper to prevent crime and to alleviate the social and economic conditions that contribute to crime.

IV. ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND LABOR – Economic justice for all is essential to the existence of a democratic society. Favoritism toward the wealthiest of us has permitted them undue influence on public policy, to the detriment of the rest of us. Taxation policies that are fair and equitable for all taxpayers, not just a favored few, are a keystone of economic justice. All who are employed have a right to a safe and healthy work environment, to free speech and assembly about their working conditions and wages, to organize and bargain collectively with their employer, and to litigate and strike, when necessary, in order to achieve these basic ends.

V. EDUCATION – We believe that the growing demands of globalization, technology, and intercultural understanding require a public education system with well-trained and well-compensated teachers that offers the challenges and opportunities to develop the full potential of all students, no matter what their background, experience, ability, or age. We support access to affordable education for everyone at all levels to provide the tools and encouragement for all people to reach their potential. We call upon the Washington State Legislature to revisit its constitutional imperative and paramount duty to “make ample provisions for the education of all children.” We believe that ample provisions, as stated in the Constitution, includes the dynamic education of the whole child, which is far more than currently defined as basic education. We support the spirit and intent of the McCleary Decision, and include teacher cost of living adjustments and fair pay as part of the definition of “basic education”.

46 **VI. ENVIRONMENT** – We believe that a new energy policy, focused on self-sufficiency and the reduction of
47 pollution, is vital to our nation’s security and continued economic well-being. We believe in a pragmatic,
48 science-based evaluation of the causes and outcomes of climate change. We support the expansion of
49 renewable energy sources including, but not limited to, solar and wind. We support the conservation of our
50 groundwater resources and creation of policies that promote low-impact development, water reuse, water
51 reclamation, and aquifer protection.

52 We believe in support and enactment of responsible international and domestic environmental laws and
53 their vigorous enforcement. We support policies and practices for sustainable development, production,
54 and consumption, including local land use planning consistent with the goals of the state Growth
55 Management Act and Shoreline Management Protection Act. We support full disclosure of health and
56 environmental impacts of all consumer products and major public and private projects. We demand
57 identification of chemicals, pesticides, and genetically modified organisms in all food products.

58 **VII. HEALTH CARE** – All people, regardless of age, employment status, or prior health condition have a right
59 to reasonable physical and mental health care. In the absence of a federal affordable universal health care
60 system, we support the establishment of a State program of affordable universal health care with
61 transparent cost provisions that treats our health care providers and patients with dignity and respect, and
62 that provides a comprehensive range of services to all, from prenatal care through the last years of life. As
63 an initial step, we approve of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 as originally approved.
64 We support policies that encourage preventive health care, expanded research to improve health, and
65 governmental action to enhance public health, protect women’s right to privacy, and access to
66 contraception, and to better fund disease control efforts in this time of increased public health concerns.

67 **VIII. TRANSPORTATION** – An efficient, flexible, and far-sighted transportation system is fundamental to a
68 healthy economy and environment in Kitsap County. We believe that the transportation system should
69 help all our citizens move freely. No one group of users should shoulder an undue portion of the costs of a
70 transportation system we all use. We support efforts to improve the level of public transportation services,
71 while reducing the overall costs and the pollution produced by all transportation systems, public and
72 private.

73 **IX. FOREIGN POLICY** – We believe America’s position, as a world leader, requires that our foreign policy
74 should always display consistent and strong moral vision. We believe in cooperation with our neighbors,
75 including the use of the United Nations and other multinational groups whenever possible. We support the
76 use of diplomacy with the use of armed conflict as a last resort. We will not hesitate to protect our interests
77 and our citizens around the globe.

78 **X. CAMPAIGNS AND VOTING** – We believe in an election system where every vote counts, and where the
79 system retains physical proof of all votes cast. We believe that no American citizen should be removed from
80 the voting rolls, or otherwise constrained from participating in an election for which they are eligible. All
81 persons should be encouraged to participate in the electoral process, including persons whose voting rights
82 have been reinstated through the legal system. We believe that corporations are not citizens. Monetary
83 donations are not a protected form of speech. We believe the role that money plays in elections should be
84 kept to a minimum with regard to candidates and to the initiative process – elections should be publicly
85 funded.

86 **XI. MILITARY** – Kitsap County Democrats are proud of our military contributions to the nation. We believe
87 that our military – active duty, reserve, and National Guard – are entitled to serve with a clear mission and
88 adequate resources. We will continue to press for the money and resources necessary to ensure our
89 veterans receive all that this nation has promised them – and owes to them. We believe that our
90 government should adhere to the Geneva Conventions and international law as it applies to warfare.

91 **XII. IMMIGRATION** – We believe in a fair, legitimate, and equitable comprehensive immigration policy that
92 leads to American Citizenship. We support strong and secure borders without fences. We believe that
93 undocumented people currently in the United States, who have been otherwise law abiding, should be given
94 amnesty and provided a path to citizenship. We support the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals
95 (DACA) program and we recognize the need to constantly evaluate and improve our immigration system.