



THE

WASHINGTON BUS

of young people, by young people, for all people

DEMOCRACY DONE RIGHT

SB 5208

Making Online Voter Registration Accessible to People Without Washington Driver's Licenses

We pride ourselves in Washington on how simple it is to become a voter, whatever your age, income, or background. However, **there are still almost one million eligible Washingtonians who were not registered to vote** and people of color, low-income people, and young people still face registration barriers. Currently, if you don't have a Washington driver's license, you cannot register to vote online. It is time to update our system **so that all new voters can register from the convenience of their choice**. When we update our online voter registration to remove the driver's license requirement...

- **The voter registration process would be more accessible** to young voters, Black and Latinx voters, low-income voters, and voters who recently became citizens or Washington residents, and others who are less likely to have a Washington driver's license.
- **Our state would have more regularly updated signatures from voters**, reducing the amount of people who have their ballots rejected.

SB 5112

Enhanced Automatic Voter Registration

We successfully fought for automatic voter registration in 2018, and **now it's time to improve our system and ensure that as many voters as possible are ready to make their voices heard** in elections to come. If we upgrade our automatic voter registration system...

- More eligible voters would be registered automatically, including people left out by traditional methods.
- Washingtonians who are not citizens would be automatically filtered out, **preventing people from accidentally registering when they are not eligible**.
- The state would save time and money because **more voters would be registered automatically** instead of through paper forms.

Democracy Voucher Statewide Expansion

No matter what neighborhood you live in, the color of your skin, or how much money you make, **we deserve a state government that works for all of us**. But right now, our elected leaders spend more time listening to wealthy donors and powerful, special interests than their constituents. By creating a statewide Democracy Vouchers Program we will...

- Address **the greatest challenge our state is facing** of the rapidly increasing amount of money from wealthy, special interests and billionaires surging into our elections.
- **Allow everyday people to have political power** by strengthening their voice and providing every eligible Washingtonian with vouchers to give to the candidate(s) of their choice in their district.
- Encouraging people from all walks of life – regardless of wealth – **to run for state legislative office without having to depend on wealthy or out-of-state sources of money**.

**LEGISLATION
STILL PENDING**



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Even Year Elections

Voting should be a simple and accessible process **where we can all make a difference in our communities.** However, voting every year **fatigues voters and makes it a complicated process.** By moving some elections to even years we would...

- Increase the **overall voter turnout** and ensure statewide positions that make critical decisions in our government are chosen by a much larger number of voters.
- Align more elections statewide to **make the process easier.**
- Allow down ballot races to have **a stronger opportunity to be voted on.**



16-17 year old voting

Issues on the ballot **impact all people, including young people.** However, if you are younger than 18, you currently do not have a say in our elections. By allowing 16 and 17 year old voting in Washington state we will ...

- **Increase youth voter turnout** by having more young people have ballots mailed to their permanent addresses.
- Create habitual voting patterns at a young age to build **better civic patterns for life.**
- Integrate more comprehensive and age-appropriate civic education in schools to ensure young people are **equipped with the knowledge to cast their ballot.**

LEGISLATION STILL PENDING

PRE-K to BA, SLAY

HB 1238 / SB 5339

Free School Meals

All children should be able to go to school and **focus on their education without feeling hungry.** However, food scarcity is still experienced by many students, **primarily low-income, immigrant, and BIPOC students across our state.**

By adopting **free meals to all of Washington's 1.1 million students,** especially after the K-12 meals provided by pandemic funding expires, we will...

- **Ensure no child goes hungry** during the school day so that they can focus on their academic and social and emotional health.
- Ensure that school meals **are a part of our students' basic education.**

Cost-Free College & Wraparound Services for all (LEGISLATION PENDING)

All Washingtonians regardless of their income, immigration status, or where they live **have a right to a quality higher education.** However, right now students are forced to choose between meeting their basic needs or achieving their educational outcomes. By adopting cost-free community and technical colleges and **implementing comprehensive wraparound support for all students...**

- Every student will have access to needed childcare, transportation, housing, food, books and materials and counseling services **to achieve their educational outcomes.**
- Increase the number of community and technical graduates which is **an investment in the future prosperity of our state.**
- Have community and technical colleges that **promote racial, economic, gender, and social equity.**



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TAX THE RICH, FUND THE PEOPLE

HB 1045

Guaranteed Basic Income Pilot

No matter the size of our paychecks, we all **deserve to have what we need to pay for our families' everyday needs and pursue our own goals in life.** However, right now too many families face economic hardships. By establishing a 2-year Guaranteed Basic Income program that would **provide monthly, unconditional, and unrestricted cash payments...**

- Families will be able to gain **greater financial freedom and stability, dignity, and choice in caring for themselves and their families.**
- Those **needing the most benefits from direct cash assistance will benefit the most** – pregnant people, parents of young people, people experiencing homelessness, immigrants, refugees, young people in foster care, and those exiting in relationships or living situations due to domestic violence.

SB 5486/ HB 1473

Wealth Tax

All Washingtonians deserve to have things they need to thrive: quality public education that serves all children, support in caring for family members, a roof over their head and healthy food every day. However, right now Washingtonians with excessive wealth are not pitching in their share of taxes, and **as a result, our communities are pitted against one another.**

We shouldn't have to fight over the critical services and infrastructure **that makes our neighborhoods healthy.** By implementing a wealth tax on individuals above \$250 million, we will ...

- Raise **\$3 billion dollars per year to fund the public good** and ensure our communities have what they need to thrive like funding programs most of us rely on including special education, housing, and direct cash assistance to working families.
- **Flip our upside down tax code** so that low-income Washingtonians are not paying 17% of their income in state and local taxes, while the wealthiest few pay 3% or less.

LET YOUTH THRIVE

**Potential
Key Issues**

**Gun
Violence**

**Repro
Justice**

**Climate
Justice**

**Housing
access +
Renters
rights**

**Mental
Health
supports**

**Workers
rights**



TBD. Please come back to find out which bills our Legislative Interns will prioritize.