

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

In order to build prosperity and advance equity in our state and economy, policymakers in the 2019 session must keep the well-being and economic security of Washingtonians top of mind.

The Washington State Budget & Policy Center's Legislative Agenda outlines our lead priorities in the upcoming session and includes support items that advance equity, opportunity, health, and economic security in Washington state.

OUR LEAD PRIORITIES



- ★ Boost the incomes of nearly one million hardworking families in Washington state by modernizing and expanding the **Working Families Tax Credit**.
- ★ Support families in meeting basic needs by reinvesting in **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families** and the **Housing and Essential Needs program**.
- ★ Put post-secondary education within reach by starting a statewide **Child Savings Account** program that helps kids build savings for college.
- ★ Invest in affordable, high-quality early learning by supporting the work force, addressing infrastructure needs, and expanding access to **Working Connections Child Care** and the **Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program**.
- ★ Close the tax break on **capital gains** to balance the tax code and ensure the wealthiest pay their fair share.



ECONOMIC SECURITY

- » Ensure families can afford healthy food and a roof over their heads by strengthening and enhancing the **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program** and investing in the **Housing Trust Fund**.
- » Protect immigrant workers and our economy by passing the **Keep Washington Working Act**.
- » Protect Washington's workers by requiring **fair scheduling practices** and preventing employers from asking job applicants to disclose previous **salary histories**.



REVENUE

- » Clean up and rebalance the **state and local property tax code** to keep property tax bills affordable for lower- and middle-income homeowners and renters while ensuring the wealthiest households pay their fair share.
- » Modernize and rebalance the **Real Estate Excise Tax** to generate additional resources for community investments by raising taxes on sales of properties worth at least \$1 million while lowering taxes on sales of homes for the middle class.



HEALTHY PEOPLE & COMMUNITIES

- » Provide long-term care for all Washingtonians who need it by passing the **Long-Term Care Trust Act**.
- » Establish **dental coverage** for Pacific Islanders residing in Washington from COFA (Compact of Free Association) nations.
- » Expand **dental therapy authorization** to bring urgently needed oral health care to kids and communities statewide.
- » Promote **environmental justice** by ensuring policymakers have all of the information they need to evaluate the health and economic impacts of pollution on all communities in Washington state, especially those most impacted by generations of environmental degradation. Require our state to be powered solely by **clean and renewable sources of energy**.



EDUCATION & JOB READINESS

- » Ensure every child has access to a great basic education by working to close the opportunity gap for children of color through a **culturally reflective education system** that promotes language diversity, and by **adequately funding schools, teachers, and other school support staff**.
- » Provide pathways to postsecondary degrees by investing in **our community and technical colleges** and increasing funding for the **State Need Grant**.



EFFECTIVE & ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT

- » Recognize and protect the right of people to organize and negotiate with their employers and raise wages for front-line workers by **funding negotiated collective bargaining agreements for public workers**.
- » Ensure a fair and accurate count in the **2020 Census** by funding community-based outreach in historically undercounted communities.
- » Ensure communities of color and rural communities can invest in self-determined capital assets by providing **public development authority status for the Communities of Concern Commission**.
- » Promote access to equitable opportunities and resources that reduce disparities and improve outcomes statewide in various areas of state service delivery such as health, education, employment, and environment by **creating a Statewide Office of Equity**.