

# 2020 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

In order to build prosperity and advance equity in our state and economy, policymakers in the 2020 legislative 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 and includes support items that advance equity, opportunity, health, and economic security in Washington state.

## OUR LEAD PRIORITIES



- ☆ **Modernizing and expanding the Working Families Tax Credit** to boost the incomes of approximately one million hardworking Washington households.
- ☆ **Supporting families in meeting basic needs** by restoring funding for WorkFirst/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and fixing policies that are harming children and families who are homeless and dealing with mental health challenges.
- ☆ **Putting all young children on a path to a bright future** by laying the groundwork for creating a **Child Savings Account** program in Washington.
- ☆ **Investing in affordable, high-quality early learning** by supporting the workforce, addressing infrastructure needs, and expanding access to Working Connections Child Care and the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program.
- ☆ **Closing the tax break on capital gains** to balance the tax code and ensure the wealthiest pay their share.

## ECONOMIC SECURITY

- » Ensure families can afford healthy food by funding fresh fruit and vegetable programs for families through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the Women, Infants, and Children program.
- » Make sure everyone can afford a roof over their heads by investing in the Housing Trust Fund and foreclosure-prevention programs and by passing fair eviction reforms.
- » Protect Washington's workers by requiring fair scheduling practices.
- » Support Washingtonians in saving for the future by creating a retirement savings program.

## 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.
- » Eliminate racist supermajority policies which have roots in white supremacy and have historically been used as a tool to withhold resources for schools, infrastructure, health care, and other investments from communities of color.

## HEALTHY PEOPLE & 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.
- » Ensure every child is able to see a doctor, a mental health provider, or a dental professional when they need to by bringing Apple Health coverage and Medicaid counseling reimbursement rates into parity with Medicare, and expanding dental therapy authorization.
- » Ensure accurate and complete reporting, investigations, and access to services for American Indian and Alaska Native people impacted by gender-based violence in Washington by establishing a statewide taskforce on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.
- » 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 remove barriers to opportunity for children of color and adequately funding special education services for kids with disabilities to allow them to learn and grow in the least restrictive environment.
- » Ensure all adult students – especially students of color – have equitable access to a great education by supporting community and technical colleges to develop Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion programs.

## EFFECTIVE & ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT

- » Protect the privacy and safety of public employees by taking commonsense steps to protect personal data like birthdays so public workers are not exposed to fraud and theft.
- » Protect Washington consumers from baseless lawsuits filed by debt-buyers and require them to demonstrate proof that a debt is owed before filing a claim.
- » Pass the Clean Slate Act to make it easier for people to navigate the process to vacate a conviction.
- » 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.



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