

2023 WSDCC Legislative Priorities

Top Priorities According to Washington Democrats:

Each year, the Washington State Democrats survey their activists and supporters for their top priorities. The below issues were named as the most important for the 2023 Legislative Session:

1. Climate Action and Environmental Protection:	75.3% of respondents identified this in their top 5
2. Reproductive Healthcare Rights	60.9% of respondents identified this in their top 5
3. Gun Control	54.1% of respondents identified this in their top 5

In addition to the top priorities, the below items received substantive support from our survey, and represent items of the 2022 Washington Democratic Platform that Democrats across the state want to see prioritized in legislation in the 2023 legislative session:

Fiscal Responsibility & Revenue Reform

- Pass a Fair Share Tax (2022 Platform, Line 1674-1682)
- Make the Estate Tax more progressive (**Not In Platform**)
- Require that tax breaks/exemptions be accounted for and displayed as part of our operating budget (**Not In Platform**)
- Create the Washington State Investment Trust so we have our own publicly owned state bank (2022 Platform, Line 1252 & 1684)

Climate Action & Environmental Protection

- Protect riparian regions in the Growth Management Act. (2022 Platform, Line 844)
- Modify the Growth Management Act to include climate change, public transit components, and closing the sprawl loophole (2022 Platform, Line 837 **Does not perfectly align**)
- Renew the Recycling Act to modernize recycling systems so packaging will truly be reusable, compostable, or recyclable (**Not In Platform**)
- Support changes needed to address the governor's veto on the clean energy and Clean Fuel Standard (2022 Platform, Line 880)
- Fund the Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act (**Not In Platform**)

Police Accountability

- Remove barriers for victims/families to sue and hold officers and departments accountable for misconduct, eliminating qualified immunity as a defense. (2022 Platform, Line 1242)
- Restrict the use of solitary confinement (2022 Platform, Line 289)

Social Justice & Racial Equity

- Advance human rights by repealing the state's unenforceable death penalty statute (2022 Platform, Line 343)
- Implement the recommendations of the AGO's Hate Crimes advisory Working Group (**Not In Platform**)
- Provide public reimbursement to Northwest Indian College for non-native students. (**Not In Platform**)
- Uphold tribal fishing rights by improving water quality and removing barriers to fish passage (2022 Platform, Line 641)

Preserving Electoral Integrity

- Repeal statewide "advisory votes" for bills that increase or recover revenue. (**Not In Platform**)
- Overhaul how ballot titles are developed to eliminate abusive practices like ballot title shopping (**Not In Platform**)
- Create a citizen initiative review (CIR) process to evaluate initiatives (**Not In Platform**)
- Phase out odd-year elections (**Not In Platform**)
- Move the state primary election from August to May and adjust associated dates & timelines (**Not In Platform**)
- Allow a simple majority of voters to authorize school district bonds (2022 Platform, Line 574 & 582)

Education

- Expanded support for Career and Technical Education (2022 Platform, Line 521, 553 & 568)
- Ensure deaf and hard of hearing children have a fluent first language by kindergarten with LEAD-K (**Not In Platform**)
- Support our educators by restoring automatic yearly cost of living (COLA) increases for Plan 1 retirees (**Not In Platform**)
- Expanded support for mental health services in public schools (**Not In Platform**)
- Support Retention of marginalized students with less than a median income with small "Bridge Grants" for food, housing, childcare so that they can complete Higher Ed and Apprenticeship Credentials to fill workforce shortages (**Not In Platform**)

Stronger Rural Washington

- Universal internet connectivity should be made a public and government responsibility. (2022 Platform, Line 1257 & 1689)

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- Create the occupation of dental therapist to improve oral hygiene care for rural and tribal communities (2022 Platform, Line 1361)
- Grow the Nurse-Family Partnership to serve more of Washington's rural counties (**Not In Platform**)

Healthcare

- Fully support our Democratic elected state officials and legislators in amending our state constitution to protect access to abortion in our state and to protect from prosecution the healthcare workers of Washington state who provide the complete spectrum of reproductive healthcare services.
- Fully support an implementation of single payer universal healthcare in Washington State (2022 Platform, Line 1324)
- Pass the Keep Our Care Act to ensure future healthcare consolidations do not perpetuate discriminatory restrictions to reproductive, gender-affirming, or end-of-life care or exacerbate affordability barriers (2022 Platform, Line 1918)
- Increase access to Death with Dignity (**Not In Platform**)
- Support Immigrant Health Care to ensure basic health care for undocumented immigrants. (**Not In Platform**)
- Reform drug pricing (2022 Platform, Line 1391)
- Support Safe Staffing of Hospitals to address the critical nurse shortage in Washington (**Not In Platform**)
- Allocate funding to expand the establishment of Medically Assisted Treatment Centers to aid communities impacted by substance abuse and opioid addiction. (2022 Platform, Line 1361)

Attainable and sustainable Housing

- Prevent foreclosures by expanding resources for families that belong to communities of color (2022 Platform, Line 1713)
- Create middle housing near transit and in areas traditionally dedicated to single-family detached housing. (2022 Platform, Line 1724)
- Create housing that is attainable, sustainable, and equitable for all persons (**Too Vague to Connect to a Platform Plank**)

Labor Rights

- Pass the Worker Protection Act allowing whistleblowers to bring action for violations of workplace protections. (2022 Platform, Line 1855)

Public Safety and Gun Responsibility

- Treatment and Recovery Act to decriminalize the possession of small amounts of drugs (2022 Platform, Line 1855)
- Ban the sale of military grade weapons (2022 Platform, Line 1545)
- Prioritize treatment over penalties for drunk driving, especially for repeat offenders (**Not In Platform**)
- Bring back parole for all and create a Community Review Board to reduce incarceration rates (**Not In Platform**)
- Provide for the elimination of cash bail (2022 Platform, Line 324)

Emergency Readiness and Pandemic Response

- Increase funding for geologic hazards mapping plus earthquake, tsunami, and landslide readiness (**Not In Platform**)
- Amend our RCWs to reduce reliance on recurring emergency proclamations during pandemics (2022 Platform, Line 1456)

Technology

- Adopt the People's Privacy Act (2022 Platform, Line 1456)
- Strengthen our state's digital defenses to protect critical data like our voter rolls (**Not In Platform**)
- Secure public cyber resources and means of gathering public input against abuse by bots (**Not In Platform**)
- Bar the use of facial recognition technology by state agencies and local governments (2022 Platform, Line 338)
- Implement right to repair legislation (**Not In Platform**)

Transportation

- Improvements to passenger and freight rail by investing in Amtrak on existing corridors and additional rural corridors. (2022 Platform, Line 896)
- Ensure that carbon pricing revenue from the Climate Commitment Act is not used for projects that are eligible for funding from gas taxes. (2022 Platform, Line 780)
- Pass a transportation package that focuses on equitable transit investments and road maintenance without expansion of capacity for automobiles. (2022 Platform, Line 887)