

SENATE DEMOCRATIC 2018 PRIORITIES

CAPITAL BUDGET

Senate Democrats understand the need for urgency in passing the long-delayed construction budget. We will be pushing for early action when the Legislature convenes in January. It's time now for the Legislature to address our critical infrastructure needs and make important investments in school construction, housing and mental health.

FINISH 60 DAYS

It has been four years since the Legislature met its constitutional obligation and finished its work on time as voters rightly expect. Senate Democrats are committed to crafting a balanced budget that takes the final step in our duty to amply fund basic education while making investments to lift Washingtonians up. We plan to finish our work on time and deliver a fair, balanced budget to the governor in 60 days.

PEOPLE FIRST

Senate Democrats will focus on common-sense policies that will improve lives across our state: √ Equal pay for equal work √ Car tab relief √ DISCLOSE Act √ Breakfast After the Bell √ Outlawing conversion therapy √ Reproductive Health Equity Act √ Firearms and public safety √ Addressing the opioid crisis √ Expanding rural broadband √ Internet privacy √ Expanding voting rights

ACCESS TO DEMOCRACY

Senate Democrats are prioritizing legislation to increase access to democracy for every Washingtonian through a robust package of policies including: 4Washington Voting Rights Act 4Automatic Voter Registration 4Same Day Voter Registration 4Voter Pre-Registration √ Every Washingtonian is entitled to a seat at the table. As legislative leaders, it's our job to make sure that every voice is heard and every vote counted. Our democracy works better when we all participate

EQUAL PAY

No Washingtonian should be subjected to discrimination in compensation or career advancement opportunities based on their gender. √ All Washingtonians deserve a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. √ The law will protect low-income workers in particular while at the same time helping small business owners resolve complaints without being tied up in court.

DISCLOSE ACT

Transparent elections are the foundation of a healthy democracy. That foundation is threatened when money is spent without disclosure. √ The disclosure loophole that this bill would fix is being exploited by groups across the political spectrum. Ultimately, this bill benefits not one party or another, but the citizens of our state. They deserve to know where the money is coming from in political campaigns. √ Let's clean up campaign financing so we can shine a bright light on players from across the political spectrum who are trying to stay in the shadows.

CAR TAB RELIEF

Voters affirmed the need for transit investments, but the sticker shock of car tab increases were too much for some families to handle. √ Our plan provides financial relief for these families, but does so in a way that will not compromise the transit investments supported by voters in King, Snohomish and Pierce counties. √ Washingtonians demand and deserve a 21st century transportation system. We will fight against any attempt to undermine the will of the voters.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH EQUITY ACT

Washington has long prided itself on leading the way when it comes to women's access to health care. √ A woman's control of her reproductive destiny is constantly under assault, particularly at this moment in our nation's history. √ The Reproductive Health Equity Act ensures women in our state maintain control of the healthcare choices that are best for them and their families.

RURAL BROADBAND

Access to the internet is no longer a luxury, but an essential element of social, economic and democratic life in the 21st century. √ While reliable access to high-speed internet has enabled unprecedented economic prosperity in many parts of our state, limited broadband infrastructure has left others sidelined. This is simply unacceptable. √ We will work with internet service providers and public utility districts to pass legislation that will ensure every part of Washington has access.

COMBATTING OPIOID ADDICTION

Opioid overdose is a full scale crisis. It is now the leading cause of accidental deaths in almost every part of Washington, claiming more than 700 lives in our state last year. Enough is enough. √ We must face this epidemic through smart policy such as prescription limits and monitoring. √ Opioid use disorder is fully preventable and treatable. We must do our part to ensure that doctors and patients have the information and resources they need to prevent and combat this growing public health crisis.

FIREARMS & PUBLIC SAFETY

These common-sense measures will increase public safety and are supported by an overwhelming majority of Washingtonians. √ The legislation would restrict the sale and purchase of accessories such as bump stocks that simulate the rapid-fire capability of machine guns, which are illegal, and help keep deadly weapons out of the hands of stalkers, domestic abusers while implementing measures to prevent gun-related suicides.

BREAKFAST AFTER THE BELL

The program would ensure more students -- especially those with limited financial means -- have access to a nutritionally balanced meal after the first bell of the school day. √ The evidence is clear -- students have improved concentration and achieve higher academic outcomes when they are learning after a healthy breakfast. √ We've already seen this program implemented successfully across the country. Now it's time to give the same opportunity to more students across our state.

BAN CONVERSION THERAPY

Aversive mental health practices, or so-called conversion therapy, are backwards approaches from an era steeped in medical ignorance and human cruelty. √ This bill identifies aversive mental health therapy as unprofessional conduct and hold medical professionals accountable if they practice these so-called therapies. √ This bill will protect children from abusive methods involving electrical shock, extreme temperatures, prolonged isolation, chemically induced nausea or vomiting.

INTERNET PRIVACY

Your internet service provider should not be able to use your private information like your browsing or search history to market to you without your consent. √ Under the bill, companies like Comcast and Verizon would not be able to profit from your personal internet habits or private information without clear, easy to understand opt-in approval. √ We have a long bipartisan tradition of protecting privacy in this state. If Congress will not act to protect our privacy, then Washington state absolutely will.