

King County Democrats Legislative Action Committee Draft 2012 Legislative Agenda

1. Revenue & Tax Reform (Sarajane Siegfriedt, lead)

- Raise revenue by closing tax loopholes to meet the budget gap
- Require that all corporate tax exemptions have a 6-year sunset provision, annual performance reports and are included in the Governor's budget
- Repeal non-performing corporate tax breaks, in a revenue request to the people in order to buy back essential services
- Oppose regressive taxes; support reforms that make state taxes more progressive
- Repeal I-1053 (requiring a 2/3 vote) as a referendum to the people

2. Election & Initiative Reform (Steve Zemke)

- Support Joint Resolutions to declare that corporations are not "natural persons" for purposes of political speech—including, if necessary, a constitutional amendment
- Oppose all voter suppression efforts
- Promote same-day and universal motor-voter opt-out registration
- Initiative reform, including increasing the initiative filing fee to \$100 or more

3. Banking and Predatory Lending (Sarajane Siegfriedt)

- Establish a public state bank, the Washington Investment Trust, to retain state funds in the state and to increase credit for students, farmers and community development
- Oppose any effort to weaken 2009 predatory payday lending act

4. Criminal Justice (Renee McCoy)

- Legalize, regulate and tax marijuana for adults
- Abolish the death penalty (if necessary in an initiative to the people)
- Abolish the 3-strikes law or revise it to eliminate lowest level crimes
- End automatic movement for 16- and 17-year-old juveniles to adult courts

5. Housing (Sarajane Siegfriedt)

- Promote State Housing Trust Fund at 50% of previous level of effort (or \$100 million) as a shovel-ready jobs bill to build low-income housing
- Extend property tax recording fees to fund low-income housing operations & maintenance
- Pass Fair Tenant Screening Act to regulate screeners and make reports good for 60 days

For more information, contact:

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6. Health and Human Services (Sarajane Siegfriedt)

- Restore and protect poverty programs: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Apple Health for kids, Basic Health, Emergency Food Assistance, Medicaid, mental health, substance abuse treatment, reproductive health and disability programs
- Establish the Affordable Care Act as state law

7. Education (Jack Whelan)

- As an investment in our future, adequately fund education K-12 and higher education
- Protect early education funding: for low-income preschool, maintain 2009-2011 funding level; for full-day kindergarten, support an addition of 11% of schools per year
- Oppose charter schools; support research-driven school innovation
- Support in-class teacher evaluations like that negotiated between the Seattle School Board and the teachers

8. Labor ()

- Increase capital budget to support public construction projects and to create jobs
- Require prevailing wages to be paid on public/private partnerships and projects involving public money or public land
- Eliminate tax and wage theft—prohibit misclassification of workers as independent contractors
- Support public school teachers
- Oppose privatization of worker's compensation

9. Transportation/Transit (Sara Franklin)

- Authorize sustainable progressive local, regional and state funding for transit
- Revive the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax (MVET)
- Improve and maintain roads, bridges, highways, transit options, sidewalks and bikeways
- Provide reliable and accessible transportation to transit-dependent populations

10. Environment (Eric Laliberte and Margaret Shield)

- Toxic-free kids—Protect children's health from products with harmful chemicals
- Fulfill our clean energy initiative (I-937) with new renewables, not just those we already have
- Prevent attempts to weaken, delay or repeal state environmental laws critical for ensuring clean air, clean water and healthy communities
- Create a statewide safe medicine-return program funded by pharmaceutical manufacturers to keep pharmaceuticals out of our water and landfills

For more information, contact:

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