



## Be Bold: A generational challenge requires a generational response

To address the inequities and failings in our social and economic structures, highlighted and amplified throughout 2020, we encourage you to act boldly, to act decisively, and to act compassionately. Strong legislative leadership is essential to address systemic inequities, and to preserve and restore health, safety, economic opportunity, and quality of life for all Washingtonians.

### Pandemic response

With the COVID-19 pandemic continuing to infect thousands of the state's residents, the legislature must focus on keeping Washingtonians safe and healthy.

- Prioritize budget and policy decisions that provide resources for COVID-19 response such as testing and contact tracing, foundational public health services, child care (particularly for our essential workers), emergency and supportive housing, behavioral health, and other safety net programs that are seeing extreme demand while suffering extreme resource shortages.
- Provide culturally responsive COVID-19 testing, treatment, and access to safety net programs for our Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities as a step towards eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities.
- Eliminate legal barriers to governing efficiently in an online world where large in-person gatherings are a danger to public health.

### Rebuild the economy

The economic devastation resulting from the pandemic has been widespread but unevenly distributed. As we lay the groundwork for rebuilding the economy, we encourage the legislature to be mindful of the acute and specific economic impact borne by women, individuals with disabilities, the low-income, and BIPOC populations in the workforce, and adopt policies that address both the specific impacts and underlying conditions, in order to provide an economic recovery that truly lifts all residents.

- Leverage borrowing rates to create jobs through large-scale investments in infrastructure across a broad range of sectors—affordable housing, broadband, transit, unincorporated roads, green energy, and other public infrastructure.
- Invest in workforce development programs to help our residents learn new skills as a path to economic recovery.
- Ensure quality and affordable child care is available for all Washingtonians who need it.

### Dismantle systemic racism

Commit to becoming an anti-racist state government by beginning an iterative, multi-year effort to shift resources from, and reliance on, systems that cause harm to upstream programs aligned with racial and social justice.

- Apply an equity analysis to budget decisions to protect the state's BIPOC communities from bearing an outsized share of any potential negative impacts.
- Build a more fair and just legal system through law enforcement reforms and targeted investments in BIPOC communities that have been disproportionately impacted by our existing criminal legal system.

### Protect our environment

The 2020 wildfire season was like no other. We saw entire communities throughout the west coast burn to the ground. Two years ago, the plight of Puget Sound's resident orcas and the salmon they rely on captivated our region's hearts and minds. We urge you to heed this warning call and protect the places Washingtonians cherish and preserve the places we are at risk of losing.

- Take meaningful action to combat climate change and transform our State's approach to protecting clean water and healthy habitat.
- Provide additional resources for forest health and management initiatives that reduce wildfire vulnerability and increase the health and resilience of forest ecosystems.

### Fix our tax structure

Washingtonians deserve a fair, simple, and stable tax system capable of delivering basic services to all communities of the state. That system does not currently exist here. The services our residents and businesses have relied on to survive this pandemic are funded by a tax system that is designed to falter exactly when the services are needed most. Local governments need real and reliable local options to fund critical services — simply hoping for stimulus from higher up the political chain endangers our residents' health and safety.

- Provide local governments with maximum fiscal flexibility within their limited revenue streams to address local priorities by removing nonsupplant restrictions on voter approved levies.
- Replace the arbitrary property tax cap with a cap designed to keep pace with inflation and population growth.
- Commit to identifying and implementing progressive revenue sources rather than continuing to rely on traditional regressive sources.