

# 23rd Legislative District Democrats 2022 Platform:

## PREAMBLE:

This document represents the collective voice of the 23rd LD Democrats. It includes our principles, beliefs and goals, and we hold our candidates and representatives to these tenets. We believe that human rights apply to all persons, regardless of ethnicity, gender, LGBTQ+ status, gender identity, religion, political beliefs and citizenship status. We believe that diversity is our strength, and equity and inclusion is a must, with equal access to opportunity in all areas of our community. We believe that the right to achieve multi-generational wealth should apply to all, through good education, pay equity, and a progressive tax system. We believe that all members of our community are entitled to affordable housing, equal access to secular healthcare, and a clean environment. We support global nuclear arms reduction and a commitment to diplomacy and democracy. We believe in free and fair elections and public financing of campaigns. We respect the sovereignty, history and traditions of our indigenous neighbors and are grateful to share in the natural beauty of this great region. We feel that climate change is an existential crisis and must be mitigated with all of our available resources.

We fully support the Washington State Democratic Platform and where possible, have tried here to address more local issues. We are aware of the intersectionality of the many issues here, and at times have erred on the side of redundancy.

## I. Human and Civil Rights:

### We Believe:

Human rights apply to all persons, regardless of ethnicity, gender, religious or political beliefs, LGTBQ+ status or citizenship. Every member of our community is to be treated with dignity and respect.

### We Support:

- A DEI Commission in Kitsap County in order to address systemic racism in local government, agencies, law enforcement, education and the community at large. This should be composed of members representative of their diverse communities. All groups should have a seat at the table.
- The history of Black, Indigenous and all people of color should be taught in our schools. Their history is American history.
- The Equal Rights Amendment.
- Aggressive and immediate action regarding the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.
- The Violence Against Women Act.
- Respect and support for minority-led businesses and organizations.
- And advocate for racial justice policy change.
- Equitable access to education, broadband, and fair and affordable housing.
- Expanding community health services in BIPOC communities to serve those adversely affected by the health impact of climate change.

### We Oppose:

- Racism and sexism in all its forms.
- Any law which infringes upon the right to vote for any person, especially those in disenfranchised communities.

## II. Law, Crime and Justice:

### We Believe:

In addressing the root causes of crime, such as poverty, racism, and economic inequality, and a fair and just criminal justice system.

**We Support:**

- Adequate funding to deal with the underlying causes of crime, such as mental health issues, substance use disorder, poverty and domestic violence, with diversionary programs for treatment.
- Trauma-informed restorative justice, which is victim-centric.
- Continued training for law enforcement in de-escalation techniques and anti-bias policies.
- Law enforcement work which protects and works with all members of the community, regardless of ethnicity, background or color.
- Fairness in prosecution and sentencing.
- Funding for Mental Health Designated Crisis Responders (DCRs) to ride along with police to help defuse mental health crises.
- A dispute resolution committee.
- Establishment of a Citizens' Oversight Commission for the police.
- Strict gun control laws.
- Trueblood Jail Diversion which "works with people with mental health issues by assisting them to navigate a path out of incarceration." (CI Health Services)

**We Oppose:**

- Inequitable treatment based upon race.
- A military pipeline to police

### **III. Economic Justice and Labor:**

**We Believe:**

In supporting workers' right to a livable wage, pay equity and a safe and healthy work environment. In comprehensive tax reform which is fair, progressive and equitable.

**We Support:**

- A progressive tax system which is fair and equitable.
- Capital gains tax and an inheritance tax on the very rich.
- Reduction of wealth and income inequality.
- Equal access to basic necessities such as housing and a clean environment.
- Giving all people the opportunity to create generational wealth.
- Raising the minimum wage to above the poverty level.
- Laws that support job security, and assure the right to unionize and collectively bargain.
- Just cause laws regarding employee discipline and termination.
- The Public Employment Relations Commission
- Interest arbitration
- Whistleblower protections
- Pay equity for women and other underrepresented people.
- Affirmative action: workers should represent their communities.
- Legislative protection for contract workers.
- Government/employer funded child care options.
- Equitable CEO to employee pay ratio.
- Millionaires and billionaires paying their fair share in taxes.
- A global tax to reduce jobs being sent overseas.

**We Oppose:**

- A regressive tax system.
- Corporate welfare, especially to the fossil fuel industry.
- Trade agreements that don't protect American jobs.
- Right to work laws and "at will employment".

#### **IV. Homelessness and Affordable Housing:**

##### **We believe:**

In making homelessness "rare, brief and one time", (Kitsap County Human Services) by addressing the underlying causes such as increased housing costs, eviction, job loss, health/mental health issues, and substance use disorder. Housing is healthcare. People cannot focus on health if they are focused on survival.

##### **We support:**

- Increased funding for the root causes of homelessness as mentioned above through supportive housing options.
- Raising the minimum wage to above the poverty level.
- Increased funding for shelters, transitional and permanent housing, with supportive services where needed.
- CIAH: Community Investments in Affordable Housing, a Kitsap County rental assistance program.
- Housing preservation.
- HEART program: Kitsap's Homeless Encampment Action and Response Team, for humane encampment outreach.
- Low-interest loans and down payment assistance.
- Rent stabilization.
- Reducing barriers to finding new housing once displaced.
- Incentives to developers and builders to create more affordable housing.

##### **We oppose:**

- Gentrification in Tribal and poor communities which cause people to be priced out of housing in their own communities.
- Criminalization of homelessness.

#### **V. Healthcare:**

##### **We Believe:**

Healthcare is a human right. It should be universal, equitable, affordable and publicly financed through a single-payer system.

##### **We Support:**

- Universal healthcare which is publicly financed.
- A secular healthcare system where patients can choose any lawful medical treatments without denial of services based upon religious doctrines, such as abortion, birth control, gender reassignment, and honoring end of life directives, such as Death with Dignity.
- A woman's autonomy over her own body and reproductive choices.
- A system that covers preventive services, mental health and substance use disorders, as well as dental and vision treatments.
- Strict gun safety laws, as gun violence is a public health crisis and a leading cause of death among our young people.
- Fee for service Medicare.

##### **We Oppose:**

- Healthcare monopolies which lead to decreased competition and increased prices.
- Healthcare monopolies owned by religious entities which affect choice of legal medical services.
- Any legislation which limits a woman's right to choose.
- For-profit medical insurance.
- Economic disparities in healthcare.
- Privatization of Medicare.

## **VI. Immigration:**

### **We Believe:**

"In the inherent worth of all people, where everyone, regardless of where they were born, have fair and equitable access to justice, respect and opportunity". (KIAC) Diversity and inclusiveness is a sign of strength.

### **We Support:**

- Financial and other support for countries where crime and poverty are the root causes of the refugee crisis, but contingent upon decreasing corruption.
- Guaranteed legal representation for those in detention or seeking asylum.
- Granting of asylum to those who are in political or physical danger.
- Expedited path to citizenship for all law-abiding immigrants.
- Decreasing barriers to affordable housing.
- Addressing climate change to reduce climate crisis migration.

### **We Oppose:**

- Family separations.
- Prolonged detention.
- Militarization of the border "war".

## **VII. Foreign Policy and the Military:**

### **We Believe:**

In a foreign policy based upon diplomacy, where we prioritize peace and disarmament over economic gain, and help to support democracies worldwide. We should always attempt to end aggression with sanctions and other non-military means as a first resort.

### **We Support:**

- The Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF).
- The reaffirmation of Article 5 of the NATO Treaty: no military interventions unless the nation requesting it is a member of the alliance.
- Assisting and supporting democracies, but leaving nation-building to the UN.
- Humanitarian aide being funneled through the UN.
- Protection and support of our local veterans and members of the military especially regarding housing and mental health issues.
- Working toward a two-state solution in the Middle East as stated in the Oslo Accords and affirming the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people.
- Greater transparency regarding the large nuclear arsenal in Kitsap County, and early warning and evacuation plans and procedures.

### **We Oppose:**

- The use of unilateral force unless our interests are directly attacked.
- Increased military spending that does not enhance security.
- "Saber rattling" in regards to nuclear weapons.

- The Navy's noise pollution and its effect on our resident Orca population.

## **VIII. Education:**

### **We believe:**

That a good education is the key to success in life, and that all people are entitled to the same educational opportunities, regardless of their socioeconomic status. The history of Black, Indigenous, AAPI and all people of color, is American history and should be taught as such.

### **We Support:**

- Increased state funding for all public schools, as property tax levies promote inequities between poor and wealthy communities.
- Improved funding and access for special needs students.
- Trauma-informed critical race theory taught in our high schools.
- Critical thinking being taught in K-12 grades.
- Increased funding for new technology, especially broadband access.
- Free Community College for low-income students in order to help break the cycle of poverty.
- Free speech in all aspects of education, including books.
- Legislation allowing for interest arbitration for teachers, who are historically underpaid essential workers and do not have the right to strike.

### **We Oppose:**

- Book banning.
- The banning of any discussion on LGBTQ+ issues.

## **IX. Campaigns and Voting:**

### **We Believe:**

That a free and transparent electoral system is vital to our Democratic values. That every opportunity should be given to all members of our state and county so that they have a seat at the table, and their communities are represented. Their vote is their voice.

### **We Support:**

- Voting rights for all legal residents of voting age for WA state and Kitsap County.
- Free and fair elections.
- Public financing of all campaigns.
- Continued use of mail-in ballots.
- Same day registration.
- The Disclose Act which improves transparency in campaign donations.
- The John Lewis Voting Rights Act.
- Legislative District volunteerism to find and support Democratic candidates up and down the ballot.
- Education of our communities on candidates and ballot issues.
- Requirement that WA state Electors must vote based upon the national popular vote.

### **We oppose:**

- The Electoral College.
- Republican use of false election narratives in order to restrict voting rights.
- Dark money support of campaigns.
- Corporate support of campaigns.
- Any legislation or practice which limits the right to vote for people of color and those who have historically been disenfranchised.

- Gerrymandering to favor one political party.

## **X. Environment:**

### **We believe:**

That climate change is an existential crisis and that aggressive and immediate action must be taken in order to slow the progression to an irreversible state. In order to accomplish this, our highest priority must be a rapid transition to renewable energy and away from fossil fuels.

### **We Support:**

- An equitable carbon pricing policy that reduces pollution and supports the just transition of workers and communities away from a fossil fuel economy and into a clean future.
- Transportation investments that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as well as air and water pollution, and that promote energy conservation and protection of land and waterways.
- Local transportation options that benefit low-income and rural communities that help our state transition to a clean and just system.
- Environmental justice for our most impacted communities with greater participation in the decision-making process.
- Updating the WA State Growth Management Act (GMA) to ensure that we address climate change, affordable housing and the environment in our state and local land-use planning.
- Ban Glyphosate and similar carcinogenic herbicides.
- Encouragement of Kitsap Transit in its transition to an all-electric fleet.
- Improvement of the number and availability of superchargers for electric vehicles.
- A requirement that all new transportation funding comply with environmental, health and equity goals.
- Making every effort to save our Chinook salmon and our Southern Resident orca population.
- The breaching of the Snake River Dams, once the joint federal/state review has been completed regarding the environmental costs and benefits.
- The protection and restoration of salmon riparian habitat.
- The alignment of harvest, hatcheries and hydropower with salmon recovery.
- Addressing predation and food web issues for salmon.
- The reduction in temperatures of our rivers and streams.
- Investment in a clean water infrastructure in order to reduce pollution from stormwater runoff and wastewater treatment plants.
- Working with the Tribes of the Pacific Northwest in order to accomplish the above.
- The acceleration of the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) so that we are greenhouse gas emission-free by 2045.
- The use of Kitsap County's purchasing power for renewable energy sources only.
- Subsidies for homeowners and businesses to go solar, and Kitsap County should apply to Puget Sound Energy (PSE) for solar transition grants.
- The requirement that all transportation funding must meet environmental and energy goals, and all new ferries be hybrid or electric.
- A ban on all single-use plastics and styrofoam.
- Selective harvesting of uneven growth trees to support the "ability of forests to sequester carbon, the prevention of forest fires and the protection of biodiversity of plant and animal species." (KEC)

### **We Oppose:**

- Clear-cutting of state forest lands.
- The selling of state lands and timber rights to the highest bidder.
- Putting profits before people.
- Locating polluting industries in underserved and underrepresented communities.

## **XI. Tribal Relations:**

### **We Believe:**

That we must maintain a lasting and respectful relationship with the Suquamish and Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribes and oppose all efforts to diminish tribal sovereignty, tribal culture natural resources or the general welfare of Native people. We respect the human dignity of all native citizens.

### **We Support:**

- The recognition that all treaties signed under the authority of the United States with the Tribal Nations (Treaties of Point Elliott and Point No Point of 1855) are the supreme law of the land.
- Improving the social, economic and health status of all Native Americans by local governments.
- Acknowledging that the Tribal Nations language, histories and cultures are integral to our national integrity.
- Meaningful consultations at all levels of government, with free, prior and informed consent for projects impacting Tribal Treaty Rights, including climate change, land management, fisheries, culvert maintenance and repair, economic development and law enforcement.
- The recognition of tribal self-governance and economic sovereignty by supporting tribal communities as they achieve the goals of self-sufficiency, including active government to government consultations on all levels.
- Tribal gaming.
- Increasing efforts to appoint Tribal citizens to local Tribal liaison positions, in order to provide equitable representation in policies impacting Tribal nations.
- The rights of Tribes to regulate and manage environment and natural resources covered by the treaties, including the treaty-reserved right to fish, hunt and gather in their usual and accustomed places.
- Continued efforts to maintain and restore salmon runs and protect shellfish resources critical to Tribal Nations' cultures and economies.
- Replacement of culverts that impede fish passage, as well as restoring the Lower Snake River by breaching the four dams.
- Advancing the health, safety and well-being of Tribal communities with continued funding of programs that combat social, economic and behavioral health issues such as homelessness, food insecurity and substance abuse.
- Upholding the goals of Indian education through implementation of the state-mandated "Since Time Immemorial" Tribal sovereignty curriculum.
- Expanding the rights of Tribal Nations to exercise criminal jurisdiction over non-native citizens committing acts of domestic violence and protection order violations on tribal lands, consistent with the Violence Against Women Act.
- State and local legislation to combat violence against Native women.
- A full investigation by the State Attorney General into the July 3, 2019 killing of Stonechild Chiefstick by the Poulsbo Police.

### **We Oppose:**

- Abrogating of any Tribal Treaty or agreement by any party.
- Any expansion of non-Indian gaming that would allow gaming dollars to leave the state for the primary benefit of privileged interests.
- Any attempt to diminish Tribal sovereignty or treaty rights.
- Using the harmful legacies of "Indian mascots" in all sports.

