

# Washington Candidates Are Asking For Your Vote

**Ask Them Where They Stand**

This fall, in addition to congressional and local races, all 98 State House seats and 25 State Senate seats are on the ballot. When candidates ask for your vote, be sure you ask them where they stand on a number of vital issues. Their stances can put Washington in a strong position to advance important reforms.

The general election is November 6, and the last day to register in-person to vote is October 29.

**Driving while license suspended in the third degree is the most commonly charged crime in Washington, and it disproportionately impacts people of color and young adults. Will you support decriminalizing DWLS3?**

Driving while licenses suspended in the third degree (DWLS3) occurs when a driver receives a ticket for a moving violation and does not comply with deadlines to pay the ticket or appear in court to contest it. The failure to pay or appear leads to license suspension, and if the person is later stopped while driving, a DWLS3 charge may be filed. DWLS3 cases waste scarce criminal justice and taxpayer resources, despite not posing a public safety threat. Many people charged with DWLS3 have simply struggled to pay tickets, and associated late charges that quickly escalate, due to poverty. Enforcement also varies greatly between jurisdictions, and unequal and unfair enforcement especially impacts poor people and young people. People of color are more likely to be charged with DWLS3 than white people, which furthers the racial disparities in our state's criminal justice system. Treating DWLS3 as a civil infraction will free up scarce resources for pressing roadway safety priorities and hold drivers accountable in a way that is fair and just.

**Last year, more Washingtonians were killed in encounters with law enforcement than in 45 other states. Initiative 940, which addresses police use of deadly force and requires enhanced training on violence de-escalation and handling mental health crises, is on the ballot. Have you endorsed I-940, and what else can lawmakers do to reduce the number of police encounters resulting in death?**

Up to a third of those killed by law enforcement in Washington showed signs of a mental health crisis. Initiative 940 requires enhanced, ongoing mental health crisis training for all police across the state. It also requires independent investigation of any use of deadly force so families, communities, and law enforcement have the benefit of a fair and impartial analysis of what happened, whether deadly force was necessary, and what could be done to prevent tragic outcomes in the future. Finally, it removes the requirement to prove "malice," or evil intent, to hold an officer accountable for recklessly or unnecessarily killing someone.

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**Will you support ending the prosecution of teenagers who share explicit photos of themselves as felony sex offenders and instead investing in evidence-based prevention and intervention strategies to encourage responsible online communications?**

Under Washington law, teenagers who send or receive sexually explicit messages and images can be charged with distribution or possession of child pornography—class B felony offenses that carry the penalty of sex offender registration. Our child pornography laws are meant to protect youth from predators, but can unintentionally saddle teens with a criminal record and lifelong barriers to housing, employment, and education. Last session, lawmakers considered legislation focused on protecting teenagers. In addition to investing in prevention strategies, the bill would ensure that minors who possess, create, or view sexually explicit images of minors over the age of 12 are not prosecuted for child pornography crimes. Minors who share (but don't sell) images of themselves would similarly be exempted from child pornography laws. The bill would not change existing Washington laws that provide ways to prosecute teenagers who engage in harmful behaviors like harassment, voyeurism, indecent exposure, and maliciously distributing intimate images of others.

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**Will you support enacting the Keep Washington Working act to support Washington's economy, protect immigrants' role in the workplace, and emphasize the public safety role of law enforcement?**

Washington prides itself on welcoming a diverse workforce from around the globe. Nearly one million Washingtonians are immigrants and make up 16% of the workforce. A state-wide approach will ensure Washingtonians feel safe and that businesses from all industries and all across the state continue to thrive and promote the local economy, and that law enforcement and public agencies are able to provide their services. The Keep Washington Working Act (KWWA) establishes a committee to develop strategies with businesses, labor, and immigrant advocacy organizations to support current and future industries across the state. It also requires that state agencies not use state resources for any unconstitutional laws or policies that target Washington residents on the basis of race, religion, immigration, or citizenship status, or national or ethnic origin. Law enforcement shall not use resources for immigration enforcement activities, such as making arrests based on civil immigration warrants and performing other functions of an immigration officer.

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