

King County Democrats Legislative Action Committee Proposed 2011 Legislative Agenda

1. Revenue & Tax Reform (Sarajane Siegfriedt)

- Require that all tax exemptions have a 5-year sunset provision and annual performance reports
- Repeal non-performing corporate tax breaks, in a revenue request to the people, including TransAlta coal mine jobs and big banks' loophole for resale of mortgages

2. Election & Initiative Reform (Craig Salins & Steve Zemke)

- Public financing of campaigns for Washington State Supreme Court: optional public financing for campaigns, by referendum to the people
- Support full disclosure of all spending on issue ads and independent electioneering, as well as on campaign spending
- Universal voter registration: opt-out, not opt-in, legislation for motor-voter registration
- Same-day voter registration and voting.
- Initiative reform, including increasing the initiative filing fee to \$100 or more from \$5 to better cover administrative costs; requiring signature-gatherers to be Washington State residents; and creating a citizen's initiative review process like Oregon's

3. Banking, Foreclosure and Predatory Lending Reform (Sarajane Siegfriedt)

- Require mortgage lenders to use mediation
- Provide automatic judicial oversight for foreclosures
- Establish a public Washington State Bank, similar to North Dakota's, to increase credit for farmers and community development

4. Environment (Margaret Shield)

- Transition to a coal-free future by closing or converting TransAlta coal-fired plant in Centralia
- Protect environmental programs from budget cuts, if possible
- Protect water quality by restricting phosphorus amounts in lawn fertilizers

5. Public Safety (Margaret Shield)

- Create statewide safe medicine-return program funded by pharmaceutical manufacturers
- Keep kids safe from toxic chemicals by requiring children's products manufacturers to find and use safer alternatives for harmful chemicals.

6. Criminal Justice (Renee McCoy)

- Abolish 3-strikes law or revise it to eliminate lowest level crimes
- End sentences of life without parole for juveniles

1/2/2011 Draft until adopted by KSDCC

- Legalize, regulate and tax marijuana for adults

7. Housing and Human Services(Sarajane Siegfriedt)

- Protect poverty programs: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Apple Health for kids, Basic Health, Emergency Food Assistance, Medicaid, mental health, substance abuse treatment and Disability Lifeline
- Restore Medicaid medication cuts
- Promote State Housing Trust Fund at 50% of previous level of effort (or \$100 million) as a shovel-ready jobs bill
- Pass Fair Tenant Screening Act to regulate screeners and make reports good for 60 days
- Pass Adult Family Home regulatory reform, with fees adequate to cover costs

8. Labor (Brad Larssen)

- Increase capital budget to support public construction projects and to create jobs
- Protect Workers' Compensation: improve L&I regulation & transparency and recapture L&I insurance pool refunds with L&I "retro reform"
- Require prevailing wages to be paid on public/private partnerships and projects involving public money or public land

9. 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
- Adopt State Board of Education College and Career Ready Graduation Standards (Core 24--an increase in credit requirements for better preparation for life) for the class of 2017