

Shared Prosperity Agenda for 2016



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The Shared Prosperity Agenda of the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO is guided by this principle: we need an economy that works for all. Right now, we don't have that. **Our state economy is out of balance.** Big corporations and the wealthy are reaping all the benefits while working people struggle to earn the wages and benefits they need to sustain their families. The WSLC calls on the State Legislature to pursue these policies in 2016 that put families first, protect and invest in jobs with dignity, promote justice, and value work.

Tax Fairness

- ❑ **Aerospace Tax Preference Accountability** — Washington should require that companies who take advantage of aerospace tax preferences commit to creating jobs (Robinson 2147), and living wages (Gregerson 1786) here in Washington. Other states, like South Carolina and Missouri, require such standards. So should we.
- ❑ **Capital Gains Tax** — As Washington suffers under the most regressive tax system in the nation, and as the demands of the McCleary decision will require additional revenue, the Legislature should meet its obligations to our students by taxing wealth, not wages.

Stable & Secure Jobs

- ❑ **Minimum Wage & Provide Safe and Sick Leave** — Far too many jobs pay poverty wages and fail to provide the basic benefits needed to sustain a family. The Legislature should phase in a minimum wage and paid sick leave policy that supports working families, while protecting tipped workers and ensuring that local communities can provide higher standards that better fit local needs.
- ❑ **Stop Wage Theft** — Washington needs to prevent workplace fraud and tax evasion by passing bills on Worker Misclassification (Riccelli 1519/Froct 5566), Anti-Retaliation (Ryu 1354/Hasegawa 5569), Triple Damages (Sawyer 1006/Conway 5568), and Wage Recovery (Gregerson 1518/ Keiser 5567).
- ❑ **Pay Equity** — Incredibly, working women in Washington still experience wages unequal to their male counterparts. The Legislature should promote pay equity and discourage structural discrimination in the work place.
- ❑ **Dairy Worker Safety** — Dairies in our state are dangerous places to work. L&I should create a Dairy Emphasis program to require safety training for workers and supervisors, regularly inspect dairies for safety hazards, impose serious penalties for violations, and provide greater benefits for the families of dairy workers killed on the job.
- ❑ **Paid Family Leave** — (Robinson 1273) At some point in our lives, we all get sick, have children, or care for ailing family members. Paid family leave protects families from falling in to poverty when it comes time to take care of ourselves and our parents, siblings, children, and elders.

Social & Economic Justice

- ❑ **Legal Financial Obligations** — (Goodman 1390) Adopt common sense court fee reforms to help ex-offenders reintegrate in to society, and avoid re-imprisonment due to court debt.
- ❑ **Ban-the-Box** — (Moscoso 1701) For those who have already paid their debt to society, checking the criminal history box on an application can be the biggest barrier to reintegrating in to society. By asking employers to consider applications prior to asking about criminal history, we can help reduce recidivism by giving reformed offenders an opportunity to move beyond their past mistakes.
- ❑ **Regulate Non-competes** — The legislature should regulate the use of non-compete agreements that prevent workers from using their skills to secure better jobs to achieve their dreams.

(MORE on reverse)

Other Priorities

The Shared Prosperity Agenda is a big picture vision developed by labor unions, faith organizations, social justice advocates, and community groups speaking with one voice. Together with our community allies, the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO will continue to:

- Defend injured workers from attacks** on the workers compensation program.
- Promote strong work place health and safety laws.**
- Prioritize education funding** from cradle to career by fully funding early and primary education, making tuition affordable, supporting college faculty, and helping students reduce debt.
- Fight for quality, affordable healthcare** for all people in Washington.
- Preserve women's rights** to make their own reproductive health choices, and fight against pregnancy discrimination.
- Uphold apprenticeship** as a pathway to stable and secure job opportunities.
- Oppose predatory payday loans** that exploit families experiencing poverty.
- Advocate for dignified retirement programs** for Washington's senior citizens.
- Strengthen Medicaid programs** which support Washington's retirees.
- Create jobs** through the development of much needed infrastructure.
- Clean up our communities** by supporting common sense environmental protections.
- Support green energy** investments and opportunities.
- Champion fair tax and revenue policies** that promote the creation of family wage jobs, and treat low income and middle class families equitably.
- Secure the rights of public employees** to negotiate for better wages, benefits, and safety standards.
- Pursue compensation proposals** to recruit and retain highly qualified state employees.
- Invest in safe staffing levels at state hospitals** to meet the needs of patients and the public.
- Advocate for just treatment for immigrants** and new Americans.
- Promote voting rights** and citizenship.
- Guard the human rights** of our lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender sisters and brothers.
- Stand with communities of color** in the fight against systematic, institutionalized racism on the job, and in our communities.
- Prevent attacks on the courts** that tip the scales of justice in favor of big corporations.



In addition to this Shared Prosperity Agenda, the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO will support a range of issues that address economic opportunity and justice, as well as legislation championed by our affiliated unions.

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