

2018 Young Democrats of Washington Platform

Mission Statement

The Young Democrats of Washington State provide a space for young people as they start their political involvement. We train, guide, and educate Young Democrats as they learn to impact positive change across the state through advocacy and electoral action.

Executive Summary

The platform of the Young Democrats of Washington is a declaration of human rights, justice, and opportunity for all. We reaffirm the rights guaranteed by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and expect government at all levels to champion these rights for everyone.

We adopt this platform so the public and candidates for office can espouse and support our ideals and aspirations. Finally, we affirm the charter and bylaws of the Young Democrats of Washington.

Human and Civil Rights: We believe human rights are inherent rights not dependent upon the civil laws of any country, they are self-evident truths.

Health Care: We support a public system of health care, consistent with the Democratic Party's commitment to inclusion, compassion, and the health and wellbeing of every person.

Criminal Justice and Public Safety: We believe the government has the responsibility to prevent crime by alleviating social conditions that contribute to it in a constitutional manner that respects the rights of all people, including rights to due process and equal protections under the law.

Education: We believe education is the foundation of democracy; it brings together students of diverse experience, ability, and background for the common purpose of learning. To support this foundation, we believe the state is therefore obliged to fully fund education for all students.

Environment and Energy: We believe protection of the environment and the promotion of economic growth are not mutually exclusive, and that preservation of the environment is an important obligation of our government. We support a cooperative and proactive approach to sustainable living practices that incorporate responsible ecological practices to combat the effects climate change.

Labor and Economic Justice: Our economic system should serve everyone, not just the wealthy few. Safe, fair, and organized working conditions are essential to a prosperous middle class and key to a healthy economy.

Housing: We believe that quality, affordable housing is a human right. We support the rights of tenants, and the rights of all people to aspire to homeownership.

Foreign Policy: We believe the United States is a leader in the global community and must act to respectfully promote peace and human rights throughout the world.

Taxation: We believe a progressive tax system ensures the prosperity of the American people and generates the funding necessary for a responsible government.

Transportation: We believe access to transportation is a key driver of increased equity for people of different economic backgrounds. Improving the transportation infrastructure will allow for a cleaner environment, shorter commutes, and reduced traffic.

Elections and Campaigns: We believe free and fair elections are a cornerstone of our democracy. We support equitable access to the political process for all Americans.

To read our full platform or learn more about the Young Democrats of Washington, please visit our website at www.ydwa.org.

Preamble

This platform is a declaration of human rights, justice, and opportunity for all. We reaffirm the rights guaranteed by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and expect government at all levels to champion these rights for everyone.

We adopt this platform so the public and candidates for office can espouse and support our ideals and aspirations., we affirm the charter and bylaws of the Young Democrats of Washington.

Human & Civil Rights

Human rights are inherent rights not dependent upon the civil laws of any country; they are self-evident truths.

- We affirm that food, shelter, medical care, education, and equal employment opportunities are basic human rights, and we support the development of social programs to protect these basic human rights
- We oppose discrimination in voting, employment, housing, public accommodations, healthcare, military service and veterans' status, insurance, licensing, or education based on race, ethnicity, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, size, socioeconomic status, political affiliation, and national origin or immigration status.
- We support strong affirmative action laws to ensure that prejudice does not prevent qualified persons from obtaining education, employment, promotion, housing, insurance, or any other social good.
- We affirm the human right of sovereignty over our bodies. We oppose any law, regulation, or government action restricting legal rights and private matters regarding one's reproductive functions. We support a person's constitutional right to choose abortion, as protected by *Roe v. Wade*, which should not be restricted by age, immigration status or ability to pay.
- We oppose any laws that protect or promote discriminatory practices based on religious beliefs and cultural traditions.
- We oppose the use of government resources to advance religious institutions.

- We affirm that government should legally recognize all persons who choose to marry and further believe that such persons share fully and equally in the rights, responsibilities, and commitments of civil marriage, and that all persons should have easy access to marriage licenses.
- We support strong legislation, treatment programs, and education designed to reduce domestic violence, child abuse and abuse in all forms. We believe each person has the right to life, free from fear and abuse.
- We affirm that each individual has a right to privacy, both physical and digital, that should not be violated by government or business. Proactive legislative steps should be taken to address the issue.
- We affirm our belief in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and recognize that the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all people are the foundations of freedom, justice, and peace in the world.
- We support a right for legal due process to include the reinstatement of habeas corpus for all people.
- We support the principles of internet neutrality.
- We affirm the individual's right to choose their own gender identity and expression and to not face discrimination on behalf of these identities, including the use of public facilities, licensing, and name changing.
- We support the right of all people to live free of sexual harassment and sexual violence, and oppose any organizational structure whose reporting system shields perpetrators of sexual violence.
- We oppose fascism in all forms from attacks on the press, to the undue collaboration of big business of government and the rising tide of white supremacy in this country.
- We recognize that the concept of human rights underlies and infuses every other plank of the platform of the Young Democrats of Washington.

Health Care

We support a public system of health care, consistent with the Democratic Party's commitment to inclusion, compassion, and the health and wellbeing of every person. Specifically:

- We support the implementation of nationwide universal health care regardless of race, socioeconomic and immigration status.
- We support extended coverage for all veterans, especially those with service-connected disabilities.
- We oppose discrimination in health care services and research, including in cases of race, socioeconomic status, and gender identity.
- We oppose governmental restriction on language used in medical research based on political goals as opposed to science.
- We support the right to physician-assisted suicide for those who are terminally ill and of sound mind, because we all of the right to death with dignity.
- We support universal access to family planning procedures, and affirm that insurance companies should provide complete coverage for family planning procedures and prescription contraceptives.
- We support government funding of stem-cell research.

- We support Integrated Healthcare and affirm that mental health and behavioral health are as important as physical health and we support parity in healthcare coverage and efforts to destigmatize mental illness and neurodiversity and the issues surrounding appropriate treatment and access to treatment.
- We support cutting the costs of prescription drugs through means such as importation, Medicare, collective bargaining, and universal health care.
- We believe in the medical necessity of gender confirmation procedures and that insurance providers should provide equity to all individuals.
- We support the principle of integrated healthcare, where folks have access to whole person care of both physical and behavioral health.
- We support policies that positively assist those seeking addiction recovery, including government action on the opioid crisis by way of safe consumption facilities and methadone clinics.
- We oppose the discredited and dangerous practice known as conversion therapy and support legislation banning this abusive pseudo-science.
- We support the use of vaccines for the eradication of infectious diseases and oppose non-medical vaccine exemptions.
- We support the implementation of safe consumption sites as a means of harm reduction throughout the state, and acknowledge the substantial research conducted on such sites. Additionally, we reject any past, current, or future bans on such sites made by any elected official or municipality.
- We support adequate sick leave.
- We support adequate family leave.
- We recognize that addiction is a disease and that we should not criminalize the ill or any treatment of the disease.

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

The government has the responsibility to prevent crime by alleviating social conditions that contribute to it and by responding in a constitutional manner that respects the rights of all people.

- We support proper funding for law enforcement and first responders.
- We oppose racial, immigration, ethnic, religious, and gender identity profiling, and support the implementation of continuing education programs for these issues.
- We support the individual's right to record and/or document the police and have access to law enforcement raw camera footage and or audio.
- We oppose the excessive use of force and escalated violence by the police and support the prosecution of officers who use it.
- We support the philosophy of community policing and restorative justice.
- We support the abolition of capital punishment.
- We affirm that the criminal justice system should focus on education and rehabilitation rather than punishment and that all civil rights should be restored after they have completed their

rehabilitation program.

- We oppose mandatory minimum sentencing.
- We support the prioritization of investigation and prosecution of white-collar crimes.
- We support safety locks on handguns, prohibition of importation and ownership of fully-automatic weapons, and strengthening of laws holding adults responsible for safeguarding guns at home.
- We support gun registration and licensing, mandatory safety training for gun owners, background checks on all gun sales, a minimum waiting period, and closing the gun show loophole.
- We support the legalization, accessibility, regulation, and taxation of marijuana, including removing cannabis from Schedule 1 of the controlled substances act.
- We support the release of those incarcerated for the possession of marijuana prior to legalization.
- We oppose the War on Drugs.
- We support decriminalization of possession
- We affirm that the criminal justice system should house inmates according to their gender identity and should not withhold necessary treatments from trans and gender nonconforming inmates.
- We support expunging all forms of institutional racism and sexism from the justice system.
- We support the humane treatment of all incarcerated persons and the abolition of solitary confinement.
- We support the end of the Prison Industrial Complex, and school to prison pipeline.
- We support the drastic reduction of the prison population of the United States and of the disproportionate imprisonment of people of color.
- We support civilian oversight of the police force.

Education

Education is the foundation of democracy; it provides an opportunity for students of diverse experience, ability, and background for the common purpose of learning regardless of documentation status.

- We support the reduction of class sizes, to achieve an appropriate student to teacher ratio.
- We support fully funding state and federal financial aid for higher education, including an increase in the Washington State Need Grant and Pell Grants.
- We oppose the public funding of charter schools.
- We support investment in alternative and magnet schools as long as they are accountable to the general public.
- We support a fair wage and annual cost of living increases for teachers.
- We support proactive state and federal government funding in disadvantaged school districts.
- We support the adoption and full funding of programs that assess and accommodate learning impairments and behavioral issues.
- We support medically accurate and comprehensive sex education in schools, as well as

education on healthy relationships and models of consent.

- We support affordability, accessibility, and accountability in higher education.
- We consider higher education a component of basic education and believe free public higher education should be available to all people.
- We oppose differential tuition and acknowledge that excessive course fees can function as such.
- We support increased funding for fine arts and the humanities.
- We oppose predatory student loans that cannot be discharged in bankruptcy.
- We support the reform of standardized testing, and stand in solidarity with teachers that protest standardized testing they believe is unnecessary and burdensome.
- We support affirmative action and other admission practices that create a level playing field for marginalized communities.
- We support fully funding universal pre-K, K-12 and higher education.
- We support freezing the cost of tuition at public universities in our state budget.
- We support civic education for all students.

Environment and Energy

We believe protecting the environment and promoting economic growth are not mutually exclusive, and that preservation of the environment is an important obligation of our government. We support a cooperative and proactive approach to sustainable living practices that incorporate responsible, ecological processes to combat the effects of climate change.

- We believe all individuals have a fundamental right to clean air, clean water, and other natural resources.
- We recognize the overwhelming scientific consensus that climate change is real and caused by humans, and that we must immediately take steps to counteract it.
- We support widespread research and use of energy efficient solar, wind, wave, tidal, biomass, geothermal, hydro, and other renewable natural sources of power.
- We support incentives for the use of energy conservation and emerging clean energy systems.
- We support strong measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the United States and strong treaties with other nations to reduce emissions worldwide.
- We oppose the practice of hydraulic fracturing.
- We support the clean-up and restoration of all current and future damaged and degraded government and private project lands.
- We support the creation of an independent organization to oversee energy companies and help prevent unethical practices.
- We support comprehensive land use regulations that constrain sprawl, protect our environment, and promote strong, sustainable, and healthy urban areas.
- We oppose the transportation of oil and coal in Washington because no system has created a system to safely do it. support increased safety standards before any increase in coal or oil transportation in Washington.
- We oppose the export of natural resources which damage the environment and long-term economic sustainability of our state.

- We support regulation of carbon emissions through policies such as cap & trade, carbon taxes, or other methods.
- We support efforts to reduce ocean acidification.
- We support restoration of endangered species and their habitats, which support biodiversity and sustainability, and incorporating the recovery management agreements into the endangered species act.
- We support responsible agricultural practices, such as efficient water use and ending the use of harmful chemicals.
- We support measures to reduce invasive species which harm native species.
- We support action to counteract and prevent wildfires on public and private land.

Labor & Economic Justice

Our economic system should serve everyone, not just a wealthy few. Safe, fair, and organized working conditions are essential to a prosperous middle class and key to a healthy economy.

- We affirm the rights of workers to a safe and healthy work environment.
- We support all public and private workers' rights to organize, use mediation, arbitration, or strikes when necessary to resolve disputes.
- We oppose any intimidation or retaliation by employers, especially when workers attempt to unionize or discuss workplace conditions or compensation.
- We believe that the minimum wage should reflect a living wage for all employees and we support annual cost-of-living increases.
- We affirm the right to equal pay for equal work.
- We support workers' rights to unemployment insurance benefits when locked out by their employers.
- We oppose the use of permanent replacement workers during strikes.
- We support paid sick, familial, and safe leave.
- We oppose training wages and any other exceptions to the minimum wage.
- A closing of sub-minimum wage loopholes in state, county, and local levels and ending of 14C certifications under the minimum wage
- We support the passage of an employee non-discrimination act to protect queer & trans people in the workplace.
- We support full workers compensation and medical treatment for on the job injuries.
- We oppose the exclusion of agriculture workers from overtime pay and minimum wage laws.
- We support appropriate regulation of the financial industry to move towards a fairer and more equitable economy.

Housing and homelessness

We believe that quality, affordable housing is a human right. We support the rights of tenants, and the rights of all people to aspire to homeownership.

- Home ownership contributes significantly to community and economic stability. Strong communities are anchored by individual homeowners.
- We support a major increase in funding for assistance and construction of affordable and low-income housing in Washington state.
- We support the principles and enforcement of the Landlord-Tenant Act
- We support the implementation of rent control, and repealing Washington State's ban on rent control.
- We oppose predatory lending and unfair foreclosure of houses.
- We support rental licensing and safety programs.
- We support zoning that encourages the development of affordable, safe, and environmentally sound housing.
- We believe that no one should be denied housing based on identity.
- We Support Construction of an adequate amount of public housing to provide housing for all, so that all who need housing have access to housing that they can afford.
- We Support Provision of enough clean, livable temporary shelter to ensure people experiencing homelessness do not go unsheltered until stably housed in permanent housing.
- We Support Protection and expansion of programs to provide services to people experiencing homelessness.
- We Support Housing first strategies that recognize that being stably housed is the first step to stabilization.
- We Support Repeal of Washington State's prohibition on rent control.
- We Support Requiring private developers to set aside 25% of units for affordable housing on a permanent basis in unzoned developments.
- We Support Relaxation of zoning which prevents construction of tiny houses, duplexes, and accessory dwelling units on single lots as well as restrictions on co housing.
- We Support Ensuring that both commercial private as well as public housing is maintained in a safe, livable condition.
- We Support protections for residents of rental units against discrimination on the basis of race, country of origin, religious or non-religious status, gender, sexual orientation, veteran status, source of income, political beliefs, or relationship status.
- We Support Halting and reversing the growth of regressive residential property taxes in favor of more progressive forms of revenue collection.
- We oppose any policy of "sweeps" aimed at our unsheltered neighbors.
- We oppose anti-nuisance ordinances which force people to choose between their safety and being housed.
- We oppose dehumanization and victim blaming of our neighbors experiencing homelessness.
- We oppose hostile planning designed to keep people in extreme poverty removed from certain areas.
- We oppose criminalization of people who are experiencing homelessness.

Foreign Policy

We believe the United States is a leader in the global community and must act to respectfully promote peace and human rights throughout the world.

- We urge the US and other nations to forgive undue and burdensome debts owed to them by impoverished nations.
- We encourage the United States to reinstate the Paris Agreement.
- We support fair trade on responsible terms that encourages environmental and labor-friendly practices.
- We oppose trade barriers that economically undermine developing nations.
- We support a secure peace in Palestine and Israel and throughout the Middle East; and oppose the creation of new settlements in Palestinian territory and demolition of existing settlements.
- We support the US joining the International Criminal Court by becoming a signatory of the Rome Statute.
- We support cooperative international efforts to contain the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and eradicate current nuclear arsenals.
- We support expedient global disaster relief.
- We believe that in clear and identifiable cases of genocide, the United States and international community have a moral obligation to intervene on behalf of the persecuted populations, including the divestment of public funds from companies that deal with genocidal governments.
- We support the United States being actively involved in fighting HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases.
- We support the ratification of the International Covenant of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights.
- We oppose the fast-tracking of international trade agreement ratification .
- We believe the United States and other previously-colonial nations should acknowledge and take the necessary steps to begin undoing the harms of colonization across the world.
- We oppose modern day commercial colonialism.
- We believe the future of Syria does not include Bashar al-Assad.
- The United States is and must be a beacon of the free world accepting refugees both from Syria and all future conflicts.
- We oppose any and all foreign interference in US election efforts
- We support each nations right to determine their own domestic policy and as such oppose all foreign government actions designed to covertly influence the civilian population
- We acknowledge the Kremlin led attempts to interfere in the 2016 Presidential happened and support all appropriate action taken to prevent future interference in our domestic politics
- We oppose military escalation with the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (North Korea).
- We oppose any form of government that does not allow citizens to petition the government for redress of grievances or does not allow citizens to participate in the governance process
- We support free trade agreements as long the interests of workers or governments are prioritized over corporations this includes development of environmental, health, and safety standards, support of a democratic process for ratifications, and the right for workers to

unionize.

Taxation

A progressive tax system will ensure the prosperity of the American people and generate the funding necessary for a responsible government.

- We support a progressive, countercyclical tax system for Washington state.
- We support incentives, including targeted tax credits, which allow businesses to provide family wage jobs with adequate health care and pension benefits.
- We support the implementation of a progressive income tax.
- We support tax exemptions for small businesses, including the elimination of the Washington state Business and Occupation tax.
- We support the estate tax.
- We oppose tax cuts that disproportionately benefit the wealthy.
- We support mandatory sunset dates for all tax exemptions.
- We support requiring tax exemptions be reinvested in the state by holding companies accountable to how the money is spent.
- We support the creation of a financial transaction tax.
- We support the removal of all forms of regressive taxation
- We support the establishment of a publicly owned state bank

Transportation

Improving the transportation infrastructure will allow for a cleaner environment, shorter commutes, and reduced traffic.

- We support the funding, implementation, construction, and maintenance of roads, bridges, rails, and airports serving remote areas and urban areas.
- We supporting the funding and development of a high-speed rail system.
- We support the state granting authority for local transit options to cities and counties.
- We support increased funding & incentivization for multi-modal public transportation systems and the infrastructure to support them.
- We support the expansion of equitable transit-oriented development and green streets.
- We support grade-separated transit and exclusive right-of-way when feasible.
- We believe in improving transportation access is critical for more equitable future by supporting tax breaks for low income households.
- We oppose increased privatization of public infrastructure and transportation.

Elections and Campaigns

We believe free and fair elections are a cornerstone of our democracy. We support equitable access to the political process for all Americans.

- We believe elections should be publicly administered in order to avoid discrepancies and to ensure that votes cast are tabulated scientifically and impartially.
- We support a full and thorough 2020 census count that ensures all residents, regardless of residency, citizenship status, sexual orientation or gender identity, are counted.
- We support non-precinct voting, early voting, and Election Day as a national holiday. Additionally, we support same-day voter registration and universal access to mail in ballot options nationwide.
- We support thorough campaign finance reform.
- We support redistricting reform , including uniform federal redistricting standards and oppose political gerrymandering.
- We support clear and transparent elections throughout the government, and at all levels of the Democratic Party.
- We oppose excessively long waiting times to vote.
- We support the option of public financing for local elections.
- We will not tolerate voting impediments or voter intimidation in any form. We oppose any law that would require identification to vote, because such laws only serve as impediments to students, the poor, the elderly and otherwise marginalized communities.
- We oppose abusive attempts to purge voter registration rolls.
- We support measures that expand access to voting, including ballot drop boxes and postage-paid ballots.
- We support uniform standards for voter registration and absentee ballot application allowing all citizens, regardless of state residence, to apply for and participate in ongoing absentee voter status.
- We support voter pre-registration for 16 and 17 year olds.
- We believe the District of Columbia, and all United States territories should have full representation in Congress.
- We support requirements of a paper trail for any electronic voting that protects individual privacy while preventing fraud.
- We support a uniform delegate selection process for presidential elections.
- We oppose decisions by the Supreme Court undercutting campaign finance laws.
- We oppose the use of the election process for judicial selection.
- We support full inclusion, representation, and voting rights for American citizens in all U.S. territories; and making residents of American Samoa full American citizens, like every other territory.
- We support the pursuit of Automatic Voter Registration.
- We support full voting rights to all Washington residents regardless of incarceration status, felony status, LFO repayment status, or community supervision status.

Immigration Reform

As Democrats, we believe creating a comprehensive and humane immigration system that shows compassion towards immigrants and secures the future of our nation is vital to our nation's well being.

- We believe in suspending mass deportations and detention centers.
- We support family unity as a priority for all policies.
- We support a simple pathway to citizenship.
- We believe in protecting migrant workers and giving them the same rights and benefits that are enjoyed by all other people living within the boundaries of the United States.
- We oppose the removal of DACA until a clean DREAM act is passed
- We oppose the construction of a wall on the Mexican border because ladders exist

Tribal Relations and Sovereignty

Local, state, and federal governments must respect Native American nations on a sovereign government-to-government basis and must respect the decisions of Native American Nations, affirm their rights derived from treaties and state compacts, and oppose attempts to diminish their sovereignty and cultures. We call on local, state, and federal governments to help improve the social, economic, and health status of all Native American people to a level equivalent to that of other Americans.

- We support upholding treaties and tribal agreements by all parties.
- We support restoration of federal recognition for formerly recognized Tribes.
- We support continued efforts to maintain and restore salmon runs and protect shellfish resources critical to Native American cultures and economies.
- We support the preservation and protection of sites of historic, cultural and religious significance.
- We support educating the American public about the inherent and treaty-based rights of Indian tribes, a step that is vital to respectful and civil relations between Indian tribes and local communities, the state, and the nation.
- We support educating students in the local school districts by incorporating more of the history and culture of Native American Peoples, especially those residing in Washington.
- We support continued funding of programs that combat social and economic problems such as poverty and alcoholism.
- We support fully cooperative relations with Indian Country regarding water.