

Paramount Duty and Progressive New Revenue Resolution

WHEREAS the WA State Constitution mandates “it is the paramount duty of the State to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders[;]”

WHEREAS the WA State Supreme Court has unanimously ruled that the State is violating its constitutional paramount duty to “amply provide for the education of all Washington children[;]”

WHEREAS the State Legislature has been ordered to fully provide that ample funding by no later than the 2018 school year, and the Supreme Court repeatedly ruled the State in contempt of court since 2014 for the legislature’s repeated failure to produce the court-ordered ample funding plan;

WHEREAS the Supreme Court ordered that the State’s complete plan must amply fund the actual cost of K-12 education, including, for example, the actual cost of recruiting and retaining competent teachers, administrators, and staff, and the actual cost of constructing facilities required to reduce K-3 class sizes to 17 students and expand kindergarten from half-day to full-day;

WHEREAS, Washington cannot fund basic education through cuts to other essential state services;

WHEREAS, Washington has the most regressive tax system in the country with our lowest income earners paying the highest percent of taxes and our highest income earners paying a lower percent of taxes;

WHEREAS the chronic underfunding by the state of Washington’s public schools is leaving Seattle Public Schools with \$50 million budget hole for 2017-18 unless the legislature allocates full funding for Washington’s public schools;

WHEREAS cutting staff at schools and cutting needed services is highly disruptive to the stability of school communities, impacting our most vulnerable populations in greater proportion;

WHEREAS Washington students, parents, and teachers should not be forced to go through this disruption because of the State’s failure to amply fund basic education per their constitutional paramount duty;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 36th District Democrats request that our State Officials promptly fully comply with the Supreme Court’s orders in *McCleary* and amply fund basic education with progressive taxation that does not increase the burden on the state’s lowest income earners or cut other social services or education programs.

Resolution presented by Robert Cruickshank and Demian Godon, 36th members

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