

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, 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 recent education funding deal approved by the legislature fails to fully fund K-12 education, for example, it will leave Seattle Public Schools with a shortfall in the hundreds of millions of dollars by 2020, including at least a \$40 million shortfall for special education;

WHEREAS the recent education funding deal relied on regressive taxes, including a sizable property tax increase, without passing new progressive revenue;

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 ongoing failure to amply fund basic education per their constitutional paramount duty;

WHEREAS Governor Jay Inslee suggested legislators could revisit this education funding deal in the 2018 legislative session;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 36th District Democrats request that our State Officials promptly and fully comply with the Supreme Court’s orders in *McCleary* and pass a new education funding plan that actually and amply funds 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 Summer Stinson, 36th members