

Faith Action Network 2023 Legislative Agenda

In each category of our legislative agenda, we seek to advocate for and implement systems and policies that advance racial equity. See annotated version for values guiding our work and bill detail.

PROMOTE ECONOMIC JUSTICE:

- **Working Families Tax Credit fixes and expansion to ensure that those eligible receive benefits in a timely manner and that program works as intended.** Including eligibility expansions, ITIN filer protections, and biannual reporting to the legislature.
- **Statewide Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) pilot program.** Establish a pilot program that would put cash into the pockets of communities experiencing economic instability.
- **Washington Future Fund “Baby Bonds”** would create funds that every child born under the state’s Medicaid program could access upon adulthood for homeownership, education, or small business.
- **Wealth Tax on Billionaires:** A state wealth tax will close a major loophole in our tax code and will ensure that the very wealthiest, such as our state’s 100 or so billionaires, pay more of their fair share through a property tax on financial property, such as corporate stocks and bonds.
- **Repeal Statewide Advisory Votes (Sen. Kuderer, Rep. Walen):** Remove non-binding advisory votes from the ballot and add budgeting and fiscal decisions information to statewide voter’s pamphlet.

PROTECT AND EXPAND THE SOCIAL SAFETY NET:

- **Free School Meals for All Students (OSPI, Rep. Ricelli, Sen. Nobles):** Providing meals as part of the right to education. This is a pathway to end child hunger and relieve financial burden on families.
- **Hunger Free College Campus:** Ensures that all students have a Basic Food, Employment and Training program (BFET) navigator, providing access and services to food stamp recipients in Washington.

REFORM THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM:

- **Solitary Confinement Reform (Rep. Peterson).** Reform solitary confinement practices in Washington prisons to make more humane.
- **Real Labor, Real Wages Act (Rep. Simmons)** to require that incarcerated workers in Washington prisons be paid minimum wage. Provide report to Legislature of money owed incarcerated persons.
- **Repealing Unconstitutional Statutes in State Law including the Death Penalty (Sen. Pedersen)** Removes language from the Revised Code of Washington that has been identified by the justices of the state Supreme Court or judges of the superior courts as defects and omissions in the laws.

INCREASE GUN RESPONSIBILITY and PROTECT PUBLIC SAFETY:

- **Banning the Sale of Assault Weapons (Sen. Kuderer, Rep. Peterson)** Prohibits the sale, manufacture, transport, and import of assault weapons in Washington while allowing reasonable exemptions for law enforcement and the military. The legislation does not prohibit possession.
- **Firearm Industry Responsibility & Gun Violence Victims’ Access to Justice Act (Sen. Pedersen, Rep. Hackney)** Requires firearm industry members to establish, implement, enforce reasonable controls.
- **Require a Permit to Purchase Firearms (Sen. Liias, Rep. Berry):** Permit to purchase systems require a comprehensive background check, safety training, and waiting period to purchase a firearm.
- **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & People (MMIWP) Cold Case Unit (Sen. Dhingra, Rep. Lekanoff)** Creates a cold case investigations unit within the Office of the Attorney General.
- **Accountability for Systemic Issues in Police Misconduct (Rep. Drew Hansen)** Empowers the Attorney General’s Office to investigate and take action on patterns and practices of misconduct at law enforcement agencies, to root out systemic civil rights violations.

- **Civil Remedy for Victims and Families of Police Misconduct (Rep. My-Linh Thai)** Authorizes victims and families to sue for violations of state laws, without the federal shield of qualified immunity.
- **Independent Prosecutor for Deadly Force (Rep. Monica Stonier)** Creates a state office, working with the new Office of Independent Investigations, to ensure fair and transparent prosecutions.
- **Traffic Safety Stops.** Ending stops for non-moving violations like expired tabs and broken taillights to reduce disproportionate impacts on communities of color.

PROVIDE AFFORDABLE HOUSING:

- **Governor \$4 Billion referendum to capital budget increasing new housing units** to 7,500 in the next two years and 19,000 in the following two years.
- **Address Equity in Housing.** \$8 million for BIPOC-led organizations for organizational support and capacity building to address inequitable access to the Housing Trust fund.
- **Increase proposed funding for the Tenancy Preservation Program and the Landlord Mitigation Fund.** Appropriation of \$10 million to address the backlog and prevent many tenants from eviction.
- **Increase funding for organizations with human services contracts providing affordable housing and homelessness services** to address frontline workforce crisis.
- **\$400 million for Housing Trust Fund** to build and preserve permanently affordable homes.
- **Address Rent Increases.** Prevent extreme rent increases that deny tenants of their rights, protect against no-cause evictions, cap yearly rent increases to account for costs and improvements.
- **Create an enforcement mechanism for landlord obligations under the Residential Landlord Tenant Act.** Create process for tenants to use when their landlord does not abide by their basic obligations.

ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:

- **Address Climate Change** by improving the state's climate response through updates to the state's comprehensive planning framework.
- **Washington Recycling and Packaging Act (The WRAP Act)** Addresses waste by creating graduated fees on packaging manufacturers based on how reusable, compostable, or recyclable their products.
- **Extreme Heat Utility Shutoff Moratorium (Sen. Nguyen, Rep. Mena)** Prohibits utility providers from discontinuing electric service and drinking water to residential customers during extreme heat.
- **Ensure frontline communities are prioritized and decarbonization goals are met** when building upon recent years' clean energy and climate commitment legislation.
- **Ensure protection of Orcas and restoration of Salmon** for future generations alongside tribes.

PROTECT HEALTHCARE ACCESS:

- **Healthcare Equity for Immigrants Campaign (HEIC)** Fund the next steps to ensure the creation of a health coverage program by 2024 for people who are ineligible for federal assistance.
- **Keep Our Care Act** Requires Attorney General oversight of health entity consolidations and ensure that consolidations improve rather than harm communities' access to affordable quality care.
- **Safe Health Care Staffing:** Establishing minimum staffing standards, improving rest and meal breaks, and creating overtime provisions to improve worker safety and patient care.
- **Shield Law** to protect reproductive care patients and providers from out-of-state legal action.

SUPPORT IMMIGRANT and REFUGEE RIGHTS:

- **Support additional state funding for refugees and refugee-serving organizations,** including providing legal services to those in need.
- **Unemployment benefits for undocumented workers (Sen. Saldana).** This bill will create a permanent, separate unemployment system that provides benefits to undocumented workers.
- **Healthcare Equity for Immigrants Campaign (HEIC):** see Healthcare section.