

## FAITH ACTION NETWORK 2024 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

*We seek to advocate for and implement policies that advance our values grounded in faith and spirituality: belonging and human dignity, justice and equity, interconnectedness, collaboration and pluralism. Our legislative priorities reflect cooperation with our coalition partners.*

### PROMOTE ECONOMIC JUSTICE

- **Working Families Tax Credit (WFTC) Expansion (HB 1075/SB 5249)** would expand the age range of eligible households without children from 25-65 years to 18+ years.
- **Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) Pilot Projects (HB 1045)** would establish pilot programs to provide extra cash to people experiencing economic insecurity.
- **Extreme Wealth Tax** would ensure that the very wealthiest in our state pay more of their fair share through a 1% tax on financial property such as stocks and bonds, exempting their first one quarter billion dollars.
- **WA Future Fund (“Baby Bonds,” HB 1094/SB 5125)** would counteract generational poverty by investing funds for every child born under Apple Care, to use as an adult for home ownership, education, or entrepreneurship.
- **Washington Gift Card Accountability Act** would apply the value of major corporate retail gift cards which are unused after three years, to the State General Fund instead of the corporations. Protections enable customers to recover the value of gift cards, which never expire in WA.

### PROTECT and EXPAND THE SOCIAL SAFETY NET

- **Funding for Food Banks and Pantries** to address increase in hunger in Washington.
- **Healthy Free School Meals for All** would increase the number of children receiving free nutritious school breakfasts and lunches by adding all elementary school students.
- **Senior Nutrition Programs to Promote Health and Stability** would invest \$15.2m/year to help low-income seniors and people with disabilities access healthy food programs.
- **Ensure Families on TANF Keep 100% of their Child Support Payments (HB 1652).**

### ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE and ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- **Cumulative Risk Burden Pollution Act (CURB)** would require monitoring currently- unaddressed pollutants affecting health and mandate that permit applications that add cumulative pollution be denied or conditionally approved.
- **WA Recycling and Packaging Act (WRAP)** would create graduated fees for packaging manufacturers based on how reusable, compostable, or recyclable their products are. Funds recycling services, shifts recycling costs onto manufacturers, and ensures materials are recycled.
- **Clean School Buses (HB 1368 + Operating Budget ask of \$60.5m)** would fund the transition of WA’s 10,000+ diesel school buses to electricity, helping both climate change and children’s health.
- **Hold Oil Companies Accountable and Address Gas Prices.** Emerging legislation to require oil industry transparency and accountability.

### INCREASE SAFE AFFORDABLE HOUSING and PREVENT HOMELESSNESS

- **Increase Real Estate Excise Tax (REET)** would secure a permanent funding source for affordable housing through expansion of the state graduated REET on transactions for properties at \$3 million and above.

- **Concerning Residential Rent Increases** would set legislative limits on excessive rent increases.
- **Protecting Tenants** would prohibit predatory residential rent practices and enforce landlord obligations under the Residential Landlord and Manufactured/Mobile Home Tenant Acts.
- **Eviction Protection for People in Licensed Long-Term Care**
- **Increased Funding to Housing Trust Fund** to create affordable housing, amount TBD.
- **Support WA Low-Income Housing Alliance's commitment and other bills on their agenda** to advocate for housing investments and practices that repair harm and build housing equity.

#### **ADVANCE IMMIGRANT and REFUGEE RIGHTS**

- **Unemployment Benefits for Undocumented Workers** would create a permanent separate unemployment system for undocumented workers to access benefits their labor already accrues.
- **Health Equity for Immigrants Campaign** (*Budget ask*) would expand critical health insurance coverage for adults who are ineligible for federal assistance due to immigration status.
- **Funding for legal and emergency services** for immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers.

#### **REFORM OUR INCARCERATION SYSTEM**

- **Solitary Confinement Reform** (*HB 1087*) would restrict the use of solitary confinement in state correctional facilities and long-term private detention facilities.
- **Reevaluating Sentencing for Emerging Adults** (*HB 1325/SB 5451*) would allow qualifying persons serving long sentences committed prior to 25 years of age to seek review for possible release.
- **Improving Access & Removing Barriers to Jail-Based Voting** (*HB 1174*) would require plans and procedures to ensure the right to vote for incarcerated individuals.
- **Addressing Legal Financial Obligations** for those exiting prison.

#### **FOSTER PUBLIC SAFETY and CIVIL RIGHTS**

- **Traffic Safety for All** (*HB 1513/SB 5372*) would end stops for non-moving traffic violations, to reduce disproportionate impacts on communities of color.
- **AG Investigations and Reforms** (*HB 1445*) would empower the Attorney General's office to take action on systemic civil rights violations at law enforcement agencies.
- **Independent Prosecutor** (*HB 1579*) would create a state office to ensure fair and transparent prosecutions.
- **Nothing About Us Without Us** (*HB 1541/SB 5616*) would ensure meaningful participation from people with direct lived experience on statutorily created or mandated state committees.
- **Support indigenous communities in WA** by implementing *Since Time Immemorial* curriculum (*HB 1332*) and Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & People Task Force funding requests.
- **Increase Security Grants funding for non-profits and faith communities.**
- **Address the rise in antisemitism, Islamophobia, racism, and xenophobia in our state.**

#### **EXPAND ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE**

- **Keep Our Care Act** (*SB 5241/HB 1263*) would ensure that health entity consolidations improve rather than harm access to affordable, quality health care in a community, including gender-affirming and reproductive healthcare.
- **Support Expansion and Improvements of 988 Behavioral Health Crisis System** would mitigate police response to behavioral health crisis calls and expand crisis response facilities across WA.
- **Increase availability of youth mental health services and wrap around support.**