

45th LD Democrats

2010 Legislative Action Agenda

The 45th LD Democrats Legislative Action Committee will track, report on and help district members advocate for the following issues based on district priorities, during the 2010 legislative session:

1. **Protect education funding**
2. **Protect poverty programs** — children’s health insurance (Apple Health for Kids), the Basic Health program for low-income people, financial assistance for unemployed disabled individuals
3. Identify **new funding sources for public schools** and create a fair and transparent way of allocating these funds according to the requirements of the basic education reform act
4. **Raise revenue** to provide adequate funding for **vital state services**
5. Institute a **state income tax on high-earners**
6. Create a voluntary program to **publicly finance Washington Supreme Court campaigns**
7. **Foreclosure and predatory lending reform** -- require lenders to use mediation, require proper maintenance of foreclosed homes, give homeowners the right to rent former homes, increase state enforcement powers, expand whistle-blower protections
8. Include **early learning** in the definition of basic education
9. Enact the **Clean Water Act of 2010** to fund water treatment projects which help to clean up waterways and sewage systems across Washington, by implementing a \$1.50 per barrel tax on petroleum
10. **Revise the “three strikes” law** by removing Robbery 2 and Assault 2 (less serious crimes) from the list of most serious offenses
11. Require that **prevailing wage is paid on all public/private partnerships** and other projects using public funds or credits (new labor issue)

12. **Retro reform** – better regulate and make more transparent the “retro” workers compensation program
13. **Loosen marijuana laws** in order to keep marijuana users out of prison
14. Improve **home warranty standards** in Washington and require contractors to be responsible for the quality of their work
15. Require drivers convicted of a DUI, including those whose licenses are suspended, to have an **ignition-disruption device** installed in their vehicle
16. Enact **state-level usury laws** to prohibit credit card companies from gouging their customers
17. Increase the **initiative filing fee** from five dollars to one hundred dollars in order to prevent “ballot-title shopping”
18. Create **Washington Voluntary Accounts** — a portable retirement plan for workers whose employers, such as small businesses, don’t offer a retirement plan
19. Create tougher criminal penalties for **level 3 sex offenders**
20. Provide **subsidized housing for the homeless** instead of cash grants
21. Finance the construction or purchase of **low-income workforce housing**
22. Restore incarcerated felons’ voting rights