



2018 Legislative candidate survey

Candidate name: Christopher Tracy Legislative district: 8

You are a candidate for: House of Representatives Senate

If you are a candidate for the House of Representatives, which position are your running for? Position 1 Position 2

Local government background

Have you ever been elected or appointed to a local government position, or served on a local government board, committee, or as staff? *Local governments include cities, counties, public utility districts, school districts, fire protection districts, port districts, and more.* Yes X

If yes, in what capacity?
Enter text here

1. State-shared local revenues

When the state encounters fiscal problems, legislators often take revenues historically shared with cities, or increase fees on services provided to cities to fill the state’s budget deficit. Recently, some shared revenues have been restored. However, during the last recession, the Legislature enacted cuts and diversions, while unfunded mandates and other local government cost drivers remained unaddressed, including the following items:

- Changes in liquor tax and profit distributions resulting in losses of nearly \$200 million in funds that supported essential local services, such as public safety;
- Sweeping and diverting over \$1 billion in local utility taxes, real estate taxes, and project loan repayments from the nationally-acclaimed Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF) that helps keep local infrastructure operating; and
- Requiring cities to pay training fees for officers attending the Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA).

Do you support or oppose the Legislature continuing to use locally-shared revenues or revenues intended for capital projects in order to balance the state’s operating budget? Support Oppose

Would you support or oppose a proposal for the state to override local zoning or density decisions to promote more affordability in housing construction?

Support Oppose
See
below

Please elaborate on what you suggest doing to address one or more of these issues:

My wheelhouse includes being on the Health/Benefits Committee for the Northshore School District for over 25 years (that included providing parity for mental health coverage) and, through my work as president of my church council, working toward the goals of transferring much of the church property into housing for very low income seniors and veterans in partnership with the Compass Housing Alliance. I strongly advocate government working with nonprofits for greater housing opportunities and, specifically, targeting working with churches that sometimes have unused or underused property and government and nonprofits can work with them to redevelop the property to promote additional affordable housing (and right-sized spaces for the churches.)

We need to continue to bring cities, counties, and the state we can approach all of these difficult issues together.

Generally, I support city and counties for local zoning decisions and any change by the state would need significant input from cities and counties affected.

Enter text here

4. Economic development

Economic development opportunities vary greatly across the state. Some communities have deteriorating commercial or industrial areas or lack the needed infrastructure for critical development, and others lack access to adequate broadband services. AWC supports expansion of current programs and funding, including expansion of state Local Revitalization Financing (LRF) and Local Infrastructure Financing Tool (LIFT) programs as options to incentivize economic development and support job creation.

Would you support or oppose legislation that expands the financing options available to local governments for economic development?

Support Oppose
X

What other ideas do you have for bolstering the state's economic development opportunities?

I am a proponent of dramatically reducing tuition for technical, community colleges and public universities. Apprenticeship programs should be expanded, as well. These actions will help build a diverse workforce. Funding needed infrastructure will not only create jobs in the short-term, but provide an environment for long-term employment growth.

