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2018 L	_egislative	candidate	survev
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Candidate name:	Keith Goehner	Legislative district:	12
You are a candidat	e for: House of Representatives	Senate	
If you are a candid which position are	ate for the House of Representatives, your running for?	, Position 1 Position 2 ⊠ □	
Local government background Have you ever been elected or appointed to a local government position, Yes No 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.			
If yes, in what capaci I have served on a s Commissioner.	ty? school board and am currently serving m	ny fourth term as a Chelan (County

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	Support	Oppose
locally-shared revenues or revenues intended for capital		\bowtie
projects in order to balance the state's operating budget?		

Briefly describe one or more actions that you would take to ensure your views on these issues are accounted for by your caucus and in a final budget.

As a county commissioner, I have experienced the reduction in funds and would not support any legislation that diminishes revenue to the cities or counties. The payment of training fees by cities becomes an openended obligation with changing standards and increased costs.

2. Basic infrastructure financing

Cities face many challenges when repairing and updating critical infrastructure such as drinking water and sewer systems. Historically, the Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF), a revolving loan fund, was a significant source for financing infrastructure. As the state wrestled first with a recession and then with the *McCleary* education funding challenges, legislators repeatedly turned to diverting these funds and leaving nothing in their place. Since 2013, nearly all of the tax revenues deposited into the PWTF were diverted to the state's education funding account instead. Those revenues were scheduled to come back to the PWTF in 2019, but the revenue diversions were extended another four years.

Would you support or oppose a budget that diverted more resources from the PWTF to address state general fund obligations?		Oppose
Do you believe that it is part of the state's obligation to help Yes	No	

Do you believe that it is part of the state's obligation to help Yes fund critical local infrastructure, especially when taxes and fees raised to do so in 1985 continue to be levied?

As a lawmaker, how will you work to secure the revitalization of the PWTF and protect it from future raids?

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It will be critical to share my experience as a local government official with other legislators and help them understand the function and statutory responsibilities of the cities and the impact decisions in Olympia have on local government. The PWTF needs to function as intended and remain a dependable source of funding for local government projects which directly affects the taxpayers if cities need to finance at higher rates.

3. Homelessness, affordable housing, and mental health

Across the state, housing costs are rising and affordability issues are impacting homebuyers and renters, as well as exacerbating the already critical homelessness problems in many communities. Mental health services are stretched thin and cities (not normally in the business of providing these particular social services) find themselves increasingly trying to help residents and keep their communities safe and secure. Cities have a strong desire to work together with the state, counties, business, nonprofit, and faith communities to help address these challenges. We continue to seek financing, regulatory, and funding tools to help.

Which of the following are priorities for you? Choose all that apply.

- \boxtimes Help to end homelessness
- Ensure adequate mental health services for those in need
- Provide tools to help control the spiraling cost of housing

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

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

Since cities and counties have the responsibility to provide infrastructure and public services, they should be respected in their planning decisions. Zoning decisions should have locally decided density provisions (with concurrence from the state) to accommodate the demand. The State needs to address the lack of mental health facilities by allowing more flexibility in using the recent increase in homelessness collections to help meet this critical need.

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	Support	Oppose
options available to local governments for economic development?	\boxtimes	

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

Tax incentives for new businesses can be an incentive and a thorough analysis of regulations will help determine what impediments there are to business success. We need to have a better understanding of what hinders business growth and be willing to respond positively for the benefit of our businesses, workforce, and communities.

5. Local control

Cities succeed when they can respond to local residents' unique needs and desired outcomes through exercising local control. The State Constitution and state statutes provide cities with wide discretion in serving their communities. However, the Legislature sometimes considers preempting cities from enacting local ordinances or engaging in certain activities. We believe that the relationship between the state and cities functions best as a partnership, where the state gives careful consideration to the varied conditions of local governments, and appreciates the importance of retaining local flexibility.

Do you believe that local control is important Yes to ensuring responsive local government?

If you disagree that local control should be preserved, please describe one or more specific issue areas or situations in which the state should preempt local control.

OR

 \mathbf{X}

No

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If you agree that local control should be respected, please describe how you would argue for the protection of local control to colleagues who want to preempt local governments.

Local government has the officials who are closest to the delivery of services and the people affected. The more you are personally impacted, the more responsible and accountable you will be because of the proximity to those affected.

If you have any questions, please contact Regina Adams, AWC Government Relations Coordinator, at 360-753-4137 or ReginaA@awcnet.org. Please return your survey by the end of the day on Wednesday, July 4 by:

- Email to ReginaA@awcnet.org;
- Fax to (360) 753-0149; or
- U.S. mail to AWC Candidate Survey, 1076 Franklin Street SE, Olympia, WA 98501-1346.

Thank you for your participation!