



# 2018 Legislative candidate survey

Candidate name:	Sasha Bentley	Legislative district:	14		
You are a candidate	e for: House of Representatives	Senate			
If you are a candidate for the House of Representatives, Position 1 Position 2 which position are your running for? □					
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.					
•	ity? itat County Commissioner Sizemore t he county is undergoing this year.	to join an advisory group regar	ding the change in		
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:					
<ul> <li>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;</li> <li>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</li> <li>Requiring cities to pay training fees for officers attending the Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA).</li> </ul>					
locally-shared reve	oppose the Legislature continuing nues or revenues intended for cap balance the state's operating bud	ital 🗌 🖂	<b>;</b>		

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.

- 1) I will always advocate for funding state mandates and limit the number of unfunded policies that are passed down to cities.
- 2) I will meet with members of my caucus individually to share the stories of small, rural government and the responsibility our state has to ensure equity.

## 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.

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Would you support or oppose a budget that diverted more refrom the PWTF to address state general fund obligations?	source	Support	Oppose				
Do you believe that it is part of the state's obligation to help fund critical local infrastructure, especially when taxes and fees raised to do so in 1985 continue to be levied?	Yes ⊠	No					
As a lawmaker, how will you work to secure the revitalization of the PWTF and protect it from future raids?  I will work to use funds as they should be appropriated. Any funds that will be reduced or diverted will be done as a result of securing fiscal responsibility. Infrastructure is a basic need that we should provide and Washington State has areas of improvement around the state, which will also create jobs. Instead of waiting 4 years for the extension to run out, I will strongly and loudly advocate for new funds directed into the PWTF.							
3. Homelessness, affordable housing, and mental Across the state, housing costs are rising and affordability issues well as exacerbating the already critical homelessness problems are stretched thin and cities (not normally in the business of provinthemselves increasingly trying to help residents and keep their costrong desire to work together with the state, counties, business, address these challenges. We continue to seek financing, regular	are imp in many iding the ommuniti nonprofi	acting homely communities se particular ies safe and st, and faith co	. Mental he social service secure. Citie ommunities	alth services ces) find es have a			
Which of the following are priorities for you? Choose all that  ☐ Help to end homelessness ☐ Ensure adequate mental health services for those in need ☐ Provide tools to help control the spiraling cost of housing	apply.						
Would you support or oppose a proposal for the state to ove or density decisions to promote more affordability in housin		•	Support 🖂	Oppose			

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

I think any override needs to be done on a case-by-case basis and should be in collaboration with the local government and people, as much as possible.

I will:

Fight for economic equality and work towards a culture change that believes housing is a right.

- Invest in housing trusts and build thousands of affordable homes.
- Provide resources to invest in mixed-income housing with jobs and educational programs that provide better income.
- Increase real estate document recording fees to pay for homelessness programs.
- Prohibit discrimination based on renter's source of income.
- Relax housing restrictions to allow for more apartments.
- Work for affordable, quality healthcare for all, including mental health coverage.
- Provide more resources to community organizations working on prevention.
- Provide more school counselors.

## 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

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		
What other ideas do you have for bolstering the state's economic dev I would support our small businesses, ensure internet access, invest in infrarevitalization projects, grow tourism, invest in community and technical colleto communities left behind.	astructure a	and communit	ty	
5. Local control	d dooired o	utoomoo throu	ıab	

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 to ensuring responsive local government?	Yes ⊠	No
If you disagree that local control should be	If you agree that local control should be	

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

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

I agree that a partnership is important and my priority is to connect with local governments, unions. individuals, business owners, to ensure I am representing them. I also agree local governments know how to, and should be prepared to, respond to local issues. There will be times when state control is needed, but my priority is to bring people together so any and all decisions are made with everyone at the table. We all need to work together in collaboration.

OR

If you have any questions, please contact Regina Adams, AWC Government Relations Coordinator, at 360-753-4137 or <a href="ReginaA@awcnet.org">ReginaA@awcnet.org</a>. 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!