2018 Legislative candidate survey

| Candidate name: | Rebecca Saldaña | Legislative district: | 37th | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| You are a candidate | e for: House of Representatives | Senate X | | | | |
| If you are a candidate for the House of Representatives, Position 1 Position 2 which position are your running for? | | | | | | |
| Have you ever been or served on a loca governments include | ent background n elected or appointed to a local gove I government board, committee, or a de cities, counties, public utility dist ection districts, port districts, and mo | as staff? Local | No X | | | |
| If yes, in what capac I have worked for a I held an elected posi | ocal non-profit that focused on local po | licy and worked with local ele | ecteds, but never | | | |
| When the state enco increase fees on ser have been restored. unfunded mandates items: Changes in liquo supported essen Sweeping and di from the national operating; and | local revenues funters fiscal problems, legislators ofter vices provided to cities to fill the state's However, during the last recession, the and other local government cost driver tax and profit distributions resulting in tial local services, such as public safety verting over \$1 billion in local utility taxely-acclaimed Public Works Trust Fund to pay training fees for officers attending | s budget deficit. Recently, sore Legislature enacted cuts are remained unaddressed, incomplete losses of nearly \$200 millions; es, real estate taxes, and pro (PWTF) that helps keep local | me shared revenues and diversions, while cluding the following in in funds that oject loan repayments al infrastructure | | | |
| locally-shared reve | oppose the Legislature continuing to nues or revenues intended for capita balance the state's operating budge | al Ω X | 9 | | | |

accounted for by your caucus and in a final budget.

First, I welcome the opportunity to discuss the uses of locally-shared revenues with you in greater detail before the 2019-2020 legislative session. Second I believe strongly that we need ensure that the state is a

Briefly describe one or more actions that you would take to ensure your views on these issues are

before the 2019-2020 legislative session. Second, I believe strongly that we need ensure that the state is a trusted partner with our cities on building infrastructure and providing essential local services. We need additional sources of progressive revenue in order to meet our requirements of both fully funding the

services the state needs to provide and which our local governments need to provide. In my caucus, I will be a strong advocate for new source of progressive revenue, and restoring local options.

| 2. | Basic | infras | tructure | financ | cing |
|----|--------------|--------|----------|--------|------|
|----|--------------|--------|----------|--------|------|

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.

| the revenue diversions were extended another four years. | | | | |
|--|----------|-----------|-------------|---|
| Would you support or oppose a budget that diverted more reference from the PWTF to address state general fund obligations? | source | s Support | Oppose X | |
| We need to build a budget that enables the state to meet all of its vulnerable citizens, and to our local governments. I would work to | • | | | - |
| 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 X | No | | |

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

I will work with my colleagues to develop new sources of progressive revenue that allow us to meet all of our obligations. My commitment to supporting local infrastructure is why I have supported the state bank.

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.

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

In general, I would oppose most proposals to allow the state to override local decision making around zoning or density decisions. Local communities know best how to grow their communities in an equitable and sustainability amble way. Our communities must lead the way in deciding how their they develop; however,

solving housing affordability is a regional issue that requires every city to participate. If cities are not meeting their GMA share of housing, then policy support from the state may be appropriate.

As a State Senator and community organizer I fight for the right of every single one of my constituents to have a safe, healthy, and affordable home. As the former Executive Director of Puget Sound Sage, I led our efforts to develop policy proposals that keep people in their homes. We will work together to make sure the increase sustainable funding for more affordable housing through Document Recording Fees results in more housing. I will work with Sen. Mullet and Sen. Frockt to continue to increase investments in the Housing Trust Fund, and support HB 2437. We will add to our win to ban income source discrimination, with just cause and making it easier for people with criminal records to access housing. Together we are building a Washington where every Washingtonian has a safe place to call home.

| 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.

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

In my urban district development our high-capacity mass transit investments create an important opportunity for economic development. As our neighborhoods change I want to ensure that we listen to our communities and ensure that the economic development supports them - especially our small businesses and lower income individuals, both of which face rising rents. In my district, it means partnering with local community based organizations and local government to ensure that both equitable development that create jobs and pathways to jobs and affordable housing projects are prioritized around transit investments.

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 | No |
|--|-----|----|
| to ensuring responsive local government? | Χ | |

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.

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.

I believe strongly that local governments have the right to decide how to best protect their citizens. They are closer to the daily lives of our constituents. For instance, I believe local cities should be able to decide if they think guns in libraries or playgrounds should be allowed. That why I sponsored legislation to remove the preemption. I also have advocated for local government to have the data and enforcement authority they need to protect consumers and workers whether it is related to ban the box for employment or addressing the Transportation Network Companies operating in their jurisdictions.

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!