



# 2018 Legislative candidate survey

Candidate name:	Carolyn Eslick	Legislative district:	39" District
You are a candidat	e for: House of Representatives ⊠	Senate	
If you are a candida which position are	ate for the House of Representative your running for?	es, Position 1 Position 2	
or served on a loca governments inclu	ent background n elected or appointed to a local go al government board, committee, o de cities, counties, public utility di ction districts, port districts, and n	r as staff? Local Stricts, school	No
If yes, in what capacit City of Sultan Counc City of Sultan Mayor	cil – 6 years		
<ul> <li>increase fees on serve have been restored. It unfunded mandates a items:</li> <li>Changes in liquor supported essent</li> <li>Sweeping and divergent from the nationally operating; and</li> </ul>	Inters fiscal problems, legislators often ices provided to cities to fill the state? However, during the last recession, the and other local government cost drive tax and profit distributions resulting it ial local services, such as public safe werting over \$1 billion in local utility tax y-acclaimed Public Works Trust Function pay training fees for officers attending	s budget deficit. Recently, some Legislature enacted cuts and are remained unaddressed, income losses of nearly \$200 million ty;  xes, real estate taxes, and product (PWTF) that helps keep local	ne shared revenues d diversions, while luding the following in funds that ject loan repayments infrastructure
locally-shared reve projects in order to	oppose the Legislature continuing nues or revenues intended for cap balance the state's operating bud	oital 🗆 🖂	

Last year was my first year as State Representative. As a Republican I oppose bills and budgets that take away funds to our local governments. My first year as Mayor, the City scrambled to balance the city budget

after the state took our Liquor funds. My committee last year was Capital Budget.

accounted for by your caucus and in a final budget.

### 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.

ould you support or oppose a budget that diverted more resources		Support	Oppose
from the PWTF to address state general fund obligations?			$\boxtimes$
Do you believe that it is part of the state's obligation to help	Yes	No	
fund critical local infrastructure, especially when taxes and fees raised to do so in 1985 continue to be levied?	$\boxtimes$		

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

Since I have had first hand experience with the process that the State used to divert the funds I can speak with that experience on the effects. Cities and Counties both continue to be the recipients of unfunded mandates and I will work hard to stop this practice.

# 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.

	uld you support or oppose a proposal for the state to override local zoning ensity decisions to promote more affordability in housing construction?	Support	Oppose
$\boxtimes$	Provide tools to help control the spiraling cost of housing		
$\boxtimes$	Ensure adequate mental health services for those in need		
$\boxtimes$	Help to end homelessness		

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

Since the comprehensive Plan came into effect, local governments have been mandated to plan for the increase in population. It is imperative that local government plan for their increase and not have the State makes those plans for them. The City of Sultan was allocated a very large population many years ago which cost the citizens over a million dollars in planning for increasing capacity for the waste water treatment plant The allocation was finally changed to a more realistic number but at the expense of the citizens. This was a prime example of the State and County getting into local government. We must keep local control.

## 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?

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

First we need to get the homeless off the street and open more mental health and drug facilities. The State spend over 166 million dollars last year on these programs. Second we need to invest in the education piece for Start up Businesses. GroWashington is a great example to be used throughout the State to encourage the support Startups. We also need to support the CTI programs in our high Schools. Now that the recession is over the schools need to offer alternatives to our high school students other opportunities for their future. And then sometimes the government needs to get out of the way and let the entrepreneurs fulfill their dreams.

#### 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 to ensuring responsive local government?

Yes No □

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.

With my sixteen years in local government I have the stories and examples to share with my colleagues what can happen when Government gets too big. My previous answer has a great example.

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!