



# 2018 Legislative candidate survey

Candidate name: Luanne Van Werven Legislative district: 42<sup>nd</sup>

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  No

If yes, in what capacity?

- Whatcom County Youth Advisory Committee
- Whatcom County Election Reform Task Force
- Elected Precinct Committee Officer 1998, 2004, 2006, 2008

## 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

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.

Oppose legislation that sweeps locally-shared revenue to the state's operating budget



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## 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  
     

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

Reform of the GMA is needed to allow for more opportunities for economic development. I also support bringing internet capacity to depressed areas of my district to entice economic development in these areas. I worked with our local Port Commission to expand access.

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## 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.

**OR**

**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 have always been an advocate for local control, whether in education or local government. Government closest to the people is the most efficient and responsive and I strongly support empowering our local officials.

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

- Email to [ReginaA@awcnet.org](mailto: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!**