



# 2018 Legislative candidate survey

Candidate name:	Sharon Shewmake	Legislative district:	42
You are a candidate	e for: House of Representatives	Senate	
If you are a candida which position are	ite for the House of Representative your running for?	es, Position 1 Position 2	
or served on a loca governments include	nt background  elected or appointed to a local go government board, committee, o de cities, counties, public utility di etion districts, port districts, and n	r as staff? Local 🖂	No
	y? mate Change Impact Advisory Comr nborhood Association, Vice Presiden		non-profit but related
transportation and ho	es professor who specializes in urbar busing choices impact the environme nonored to receive the endorsement	ent. I have a passion for local g	overnment and I
increase fees on servi have been restored. H	ocal revenues nters fiscal problems, legislators ofte ces provided to cities to fill the state' lowever, during the last recession, th nd other local government cost drive	s budget deficit. Recently, son ne Legislature enacted cuts an	ne shared revenues d diversions, while
<ul> <li>Changes in liquor supported essentia</li> <li>Sweeping and divergent from the nationally operating; and</li> </ul>	tax and profit distributions resulting in al local services, such as public safe erting over \$1 billion in local utility tax re-acclaimed Public Works Trust Fund pay training fees for officers attending	ty; xes, real estate taxes, and pro I (PWTF) that helps keep loca	ject loan repayments I infrastructure
locally-shared reve	oppose the Legislature continuing nues or revenues intended for cap balance the state's operating bud	oital 🗍 🖂	Э

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.

Depriving cities of needed funds, to be used for state purposes, is self-defeating. The role of state and local government is to serve citizens together.

## 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.

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

The state is responsible for funding McCleary and should be building reserve funds in the event of a recession. When our economy is booming, we should be setting aside revenues. Not diverting revenue from critical infrastructure.

## 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 a	ıll that apply.		
⊠ Ensure adequate mental health services for those in             □             □	need		
	sing		
Would you support or oppose a proposal for the state to override local zoning or density decisions to promote more affordability in housing construction?			Oppose

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

Homelessness is a failure of society to care for all its members and provide affordable housing, not a failure of individuals. Every \$100 increase in rents results in a 6% increase in homelessness. Homelessness is a condition, not a character flaw, and individuals experiencing homelessness deserve to be treated with dignity and compassion.

Ending homelessness is more difficult than simply providing homes. It needs to include mental health services, social workers and drug addiction treatment programs and generally a better social safety net. This is one of the key components of my campaign.

My opponent has voted *against* feeding children and against workers while giving platitudes about how we can't afford it. In fact, we can't afford not to invest in our people. We can end child poverty. Social scientists have calculated that for every \$1 invested, we receive \$7 worth of benefits. That includes higher wages, reduced incarceration rates, and improved physical and mental health for parents and children.

One of the first things I would do would be to fund the Working Families Tax Rebate (WFTR, or Earned Income Tax Credit EITC at the federal level). It's currently on the books, it has bipartisan support and the EITC has been shown to be a poverty anti-poverty tool that increases work, increase educational achievement, and increases the probability a child will go to college and earn more money in the future generation. It's bad economics for us to leave this vital program unfunded.

## 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? I'm an economist, I support creative financing programs that are fiscally responsible and transparent to taxpayers.

Locals will know what are the infrastructure needs better than officials in Olympia and I want local government to have all the tools they need to grow their economies and care for their 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 No 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.

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.

If decisions can be made locally, they should be. There will need to be state level decisions, such as funding education as laid out in the supreme court or coordinating regional transportation planning, but city governments uniquely understand their community.

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!