

- the classification of rape as a hate crime and as a war crime.

We oppose

- discrimination in employment (including military), salary, housing, public accommodations, and education -- or in cases of disability.

We urge an active leadership role for government and people of the United States of America in the prevention and cessation of genocide anywhere in the world, but particularly in Darfur, Sudan, Rwanda, Uganda, Chad, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

II. EDUCATION

We support:

- the passage of school levies with a simple majority rather than the 60% super majority.
- increased salaries for public school and higher education employees
- parity of salary and benefits for less than full-time workers.
- the full funding of public education, early childhood through grade 16, and/or vocational training.
- the full funding of Operation Headstart and funding for any school district to implement Headstart.
- the repeal of the “No Child Left Behind” act because it is unfunded and is detrimental to local educational programs.
- the Student Privacy Protection Act of 2005.
- having all secondary schools inform all students of their right to sign an “opt-out” form requiring that their names and personal information be withheld from military recruiters.
- reasonable teacher-student ratios which will provide an optimal learning experience for students.
- strict anti-bullying policies that include education and participatory programs and activities designed to prevent and discourage bullying in schools.
- the application of human rights at all levels of public education.
- the funding of programs for historically underserved populations seeking education or job training, such as second language learners, homeless people, and ethnic minorities.
- the inclusion of age-appropriate, science-based sex education curriculum in the elementary grades.
- including in the secondary level curriculum education about gangs
- a re-examination of the impacts of the WASL (Washington Assessment of Student Learning)

We strongly oppose voucher and charter systems that undermine our public education system.

95
96 **III. ENVIRONMENT**
97

98 **We support:**

- 99
- 100 • environmental sustainability (and awareness of the resources and fragility of the
101 physical environment and the effects on it of human activity and decisions) as a
102 critical consideration in all economic, societal, and governmental policy research
103 and development.
 - 104 • laws and regulations to ensure clean air and water, uncontaminated food, and a
105 healthy, natural environment for all, everywhere.
 - 106 • fiduciary accountability for corporations that contaminate or otherwise cause
107 detriment to the soil, water, and air.
 - 108 • repayments to people overcharged as a result of Vice-President Cheney’s
109 agreement/s with the energy companies.
 - 110 • continued funding of EPA air monitors at current 2006 levels.
 - 111 • continued, adequate funding and oversight of the Hanford Cleanup efforts.
 - 112 • development and implementation of effective and efficient mass transit systems
113 that meet the clean air standards and significantly increase transit ridership by
114 offering safe, fast, clean, frequent, and easily accessed public transit.
 - 115 • licensing and development of renewable technologies and energy plants (such as
116 solar, wind and biodiesel) to increase affordable Pacific Northwest electricity and
117 encourage conservation of energy resources.
 - 118 • the rights of environmental groups and individual citizens to require an
119 enforceable administrative process for listing rare plants and animals as
120 endangered or threatened.
 - 121 • the protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil and gas
122 development.
 - 123 • the protection of the Washington and Oregon coastline from drilling.
 - 124 • a moratorium on the construction of any logging roads on public lands and state
125 and national forests.
 - 126 • the Clinton Administration standards and the Clean Water Act to ensure clean
127 drinking water, including the protection of our watersheds.
 - 128 • the U.S. Government’s participation in international talks on global warming and
129 support ratification of the Kyoto Treaty.
 - 130 • the complete and honest labeling of all foods, food additives, and medications,
131 including country of origin.
 - 132 • sustainable local agriculture (*i.e.*, small family farms) to maintain local jobs and a
133 decentralized control of the food supply. We oppose “dead-end”^v seeds and the
134 patenting of food and seed stocks.
 - 135 • the maintenance of healthy, sustainable wild fish stocks rather than commercial
136 fish farming which increases pollution, puts the health of wild fish at risk and
137 causes health risks to humans.
 - 138 • the maintenance, preservation, and completion of our high occupancy vehicle
139 lanes within and between our cities (HOV) and the management of those lanes for
140 carpools, vanpools, and buses to meet or exceed the Washington State
141 Department of Transportation standard of 45 miles per hour 90% of the time.
 - the protection of our forests and parks.

- 142 • building codes designed to promote and encourage “green” building for
143 residential, governmental, and commercial buildings.
- 144 • point and non-point water collectors.
- 145 • requirements that manufacturers increase the diversity, efficiency, and safety of
146 vehicles, as well as accuracy in reporting to the public.

147
148 **We oppose** the privatization of water as a violation of our commitment to protecting and
149 preserving “the commons.”

150 151 **IV. GOVERNMENT**

152
153 We are in a Constitutional crisis. The Constitution and the Bill of Rights are being undermined.

- 154 • The *USA PATRIOT Act* violates the First, Third, Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth amendments to
155 the U. S. Constitution.
- 156 • Governmental “faith-based” initiatives and the injection of religious observances into the
157 secular realm are violating the First Amendment principle of the separation of church
158 and state.
- 159 • International trade agreements are violating the Ninth and Tenth amendments which are
160 the foundation of our Federalist system.

161
162
163 The Supreme Court is being unduly influenced by

- 164 • the executive branch and
- 165 • violations of the U. S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights with respect to the separation of
166 powers.

167
168 The primary function of government is to support the wellbeing of people.

169 170 **We support:**

- 171 • access to safe, legal abortion as a universal, protected, fundamental part of reproductive
172 rights.
- 173 • the right of a woman to determine the number, timing, and spacing of her pregnancies.
- 174 • diplomacy as the paramount force and power of international relations.
- 175 • exposing and reversing the legal fiction known as the “personhood” of corporations.
- 176 • reforms related to corporate charters to reflect greater representation of workers and
177 shareholders, requirements for truth-telling, and respect for human and environmental
178 rights, with enforcement so that corporations failing to honor their charters will have
179 them cancelled.
- 180 • respecting the treaty rights and sovereign status of First Nations.
- 181 • full funding of essential resources and services.
- 182 • the development of strong communities recognizing the interdependence of all people.
- 183 • ensuring the preservation of our democracy by providing clear, open, and accurate
184 partisan election processes as stated in the 2004 Supreme Court ruling requiring political
185 party designations.
- 186 • the Constitutional independence of the judiciary which is currently being compromised.
- 187 • protecting FCC policies that forbid media monopoly and ensure public ownership and
188 access to guarantee wide points of view on important issues.

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- reform of international trade agreements and institutions to conform with the Constitution of the United States.
 - economic development strategies that focus on investing in small, local businesses rather than on luring businesses from elsewhere.

195 **We oppose:**

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- 206- the principles and agenda of the Project for the New American Century.^{vi}
- the policies of pre-emptive strikes and wars of aggression.
- the erosion of a progressive system of taxation.
- the erosion of public control over services that directly affect our health and well-being.
- unfunded mandates, cost shifts to local budgets, and tax shifts to local governments.
- blatant exploitation of Washington’s citizens by the egregious practices of credit card companies and predatory lending practices.
- any action of self-appointed vigilantes such as the Minutemen project.
- the funding of judicial campaigns by political action committees.
- pharmacists’ refusal to fill any legal prescriptions.

207 **Government and Corporate Power:**

208

209 The “commons”^{vii} includes the vast realms of nature and society that we inherit together and

210 must pass on, undiminished, to future generations. The “commons” is protected in “The

211 Universal Declaration of the Rights of Man” and must not be privatized.

212

213 **We believe that:**

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- 222- giant corporations govern the United States of America and the earth, violating the fundamental democratic principle of the “consent of the governed.”
- democracy can contest corporate domination.
- democracy must make people’s humanity and constitutional rights a reality.
- we can challenge illegitimate corporate authority.
- corporations are not persons, but are *legal fictions*.^{viii}
- corporate subsidies that consume taxpayer dollars and that undermine fair competition should be eliminated.

223 **We support:**

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- 232- the revocation and/or reform of corporate charters that violate our laws.
- a government that places the needs of the people of the United States of America above those of corporations.
- the protection of “the commons” so that future generations will be able to thrive.
- transparency in corporate accounting.
- tax credits and investment support for small business.
- the invigoration of oversight and revocation powers of the states with regard to corporations no longer serving the public interest.

233 **We oppose:**

- 234
- 235- the preferential treatment that corporations have over individual and collective rights in the U. S. Judicial System.

- undue influence by corporations over the government of the United States of America.
- tax cuts for the wealthiest 1% of Americans.

V. HEALTH.

We believe that all governmental decisions should be based upon the “precautionary principle.”
(See endnote #1.) First, “Do No Harm.”

We support:

- preventive healthcare, not healthcare controlled by drug and insurance companies.
- as part of preventive health care, the removal of potent, bio-accumulative toxins (PBTS) such as mercury, arsenic, lead and PBDES from the human body and the environment.
- the removal of the registered pesticide thimerosal (containing 48% mercury) from all vaccines.
- both nationally and internationally, a woman’s freedom of choice for reproductive rights, including those serving in the Armed Forces.
- publicly funded research that supports women’s health and is free of racial discrimination.
- a single-payer healthcare system that provides universal healthcare for all medically necessary care, without regard to previous illness or pre-existing conditions; requires medical insurance companies to provide coverage; and requires employers to partner financially at a reasonable level.
- full funding of prescription medications for Medicare recipients.
- stem cell research for medical treatments that reverse, prevent, or cure illnesses or heal injuries.
- consumers’ right to choose alternative or complementary medicine (based upon “best available science” and to have insurance companies provide coverage.
- the requirement that dentists and doctors provide medically accurate information to patients.

We oppose

- the cloning of human beings.
- the privatization of the Medicare and Medicaid programs.
- the Codex Alimentarius^{ix}

VI. LABOR

We support:

- the right of all workers to join together and organize without interference to secure better wages and working conditions.
- a living wage and cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) throughout the United States and its territories.
- full funding for enforcement of employment standards, child labor laws, and work safety regulations, including the regulations to protect and compensate workers for ergonomic injuries.

- 281 • using Washington workers, products, goods and services for functions occurring within
- 282 the state and country rather than outsourcing to other countries or non-governmental
- 283 entities.
- 284 • fair trade, not free trade, and abolishing the Central American Free Trade Agreement
- 285 (CAFTA) because when jobs are exported then workers and the environment are
- 286 exploited.
- 287 • workers' rights to unemployment insurance when locked out by employers.
- 288 • adequate, equitable representation of works on corporate boards of directors.
- 289 • restrictions on corporate takeovers and mergers when workers are dismissed without just
- 290 cause or compensation.
- 291 • protection of the U.S. Social Security System and pension plans.
- 292 • state and federal prevailing wage laws for all government contracts.
- 293 • assistance for the working poor through access to affordable healthcare, housing, child
- 294 care facilities "24/7" and job training/apprentice programs.
- 295 • reform of the WTO in order to protect and extend American labor, environmental
- 296 standards and civil rights to international trading partners.
- 297
- 298 **We oppose:**
- 299 • the use of temporary workers during strikes and, further, we oppose the permanent
- 300 replacement of striking workers.
- 301 • any executive order designed to break up or interfere with labor unions.

ENDNOTES

ⁱ The Precautionary Principle -- "When an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken, even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically. In this context the proponent of an activity, rather than the public, should bear the burden of proof. The process of applying the precautionary principle must be open, informed, and democratic and must include potentially affected parties. It must also involve an examination of the full range of alternatives, including no action." - **Wingspread Statement** on the Precautionary Principle, Jan. 1998. The precautionary principle, virtually unknown here six years ago, is now a U.S. phenomenon. In December 2001 the *The New York Times Magazine* listed the principle as one of the most influential ideas of the year, describing the intellectual, ethical, and policy framework SEHN had developed around the principle. In June 2003, the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco became the first government body in the United States to make the precautionary principle the basis for all its environmental policy.

ⁱⁱ The Universal Declaration of Human Rights -- See "Appendix A."

ⁱⁱⁱ The USA PATRIOT Act -- See "Appendix B."

^{iv} The Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) – See "Appendix C."

^v "Dead-end" Seeds -- sterile seeds derived through an interplay among three transplanted genes, one of which produces a toxin that kills seeds in their final stages of development. Critics however refer to it as "terminator technology" because of the technique's ability to neutralize a plant's germinating capacity—a characteristic introduced for purely commercial reasons.

^{vi} "The Project for a New American Century" is a political agenda dedicated to establishing an American empire controlled by American corporate, political, economic, and military forces throughout the world. This includes military action to secure control of non-renewable energy resources wherever located; trade agreements that undermine our Federal and state regulations regarding work conditions, health care, and environmental protection; control of our political processes to favor the Project to the detriment of American citizens..

^{vii} “the commons” – those features of the earth and its atmosphere that are held in common by the inhabitants of the earth: air, water, the airwaves, and similar forms of existence.

^{viii} “legal Fictions” -- concepts that are created only under the law; legal fictions are artificial entities. As an example, slavery was a legal fiction that was abolished at the end of the War Between the States in 1865. Corporate personhood is a legal fiction that was born into jurisprudence in 1886 when the U. S. Supreme Court dubiously declared corporations to be persons under the Fourteenth Amendment, a Civil Rights amendment designed to safeguard newly emancipated Blacks from unfair treatment by the government. In *Santa Clara County v. Southern Pacific Railroad*, the head note declared corporations to be persons, yet the text of the opinion contains no analysis discuss the legitimacy of this ruling. In subsequent cases (in which the Court has expanded the number of amendments under which corporations can be protected) the only analysis of the merits of “corporate personhood” has been in the dissenting opinions. The Supreme Court has extended corporate personhood to give corporations rights under the First, Fourth, and Fifth Amendments. For further information, please see these websites: <www.POCLAD.org> and <www.SoundDemocracy.org> and <www.wilpf.org>.

^{ix} Codex Alimentarius -- The Codex Alimentarius contains general standards covering matters such as food labeling, food hygiene, food additives and pesticide residues, and procedures for assessing the safety of foods derived from modern biotechnology. It also contains guidelines for the management of official (i.e., governmental) import and export inspection and certification systems for foods. The Guidelines have attracted concern from both consumers and industry due to the potential for restrictions on vitamins and minerals as nutritional supplements. The health freedom movement has pointed to greater concerns related to restrictions on dietary supplement ingredients in Europe via the European Union's Food Supplements Directive (which utilizes approved lists of ingredients and ingredient forms) and potentially restrictive dosage limits to be based on a Codex model via the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Health Organization (WHO) Nutrient Risk Assessment Project.