

Evergreen Future Campaign



A 2020-2024 Accountability & Political Campaign

Evergreen Future Platform

Act on Climate

In every community across the state we need to power our homes, cars, public transportation, and industries with clean, affordable energy.

Clean Water & Healthy Forests

We deserve clean water and healthy forests for fish, orcas, wildlife, communities, and future generations.

Environmental Justice & Public Health

Who you are or where you live should not determine the length or quality of your life. Everyone deserves healthy, thriving communities with good-paying jobs, clean air and water, and safe neighborhoods to raise a family.

Hold Corporate Polluters Accountable

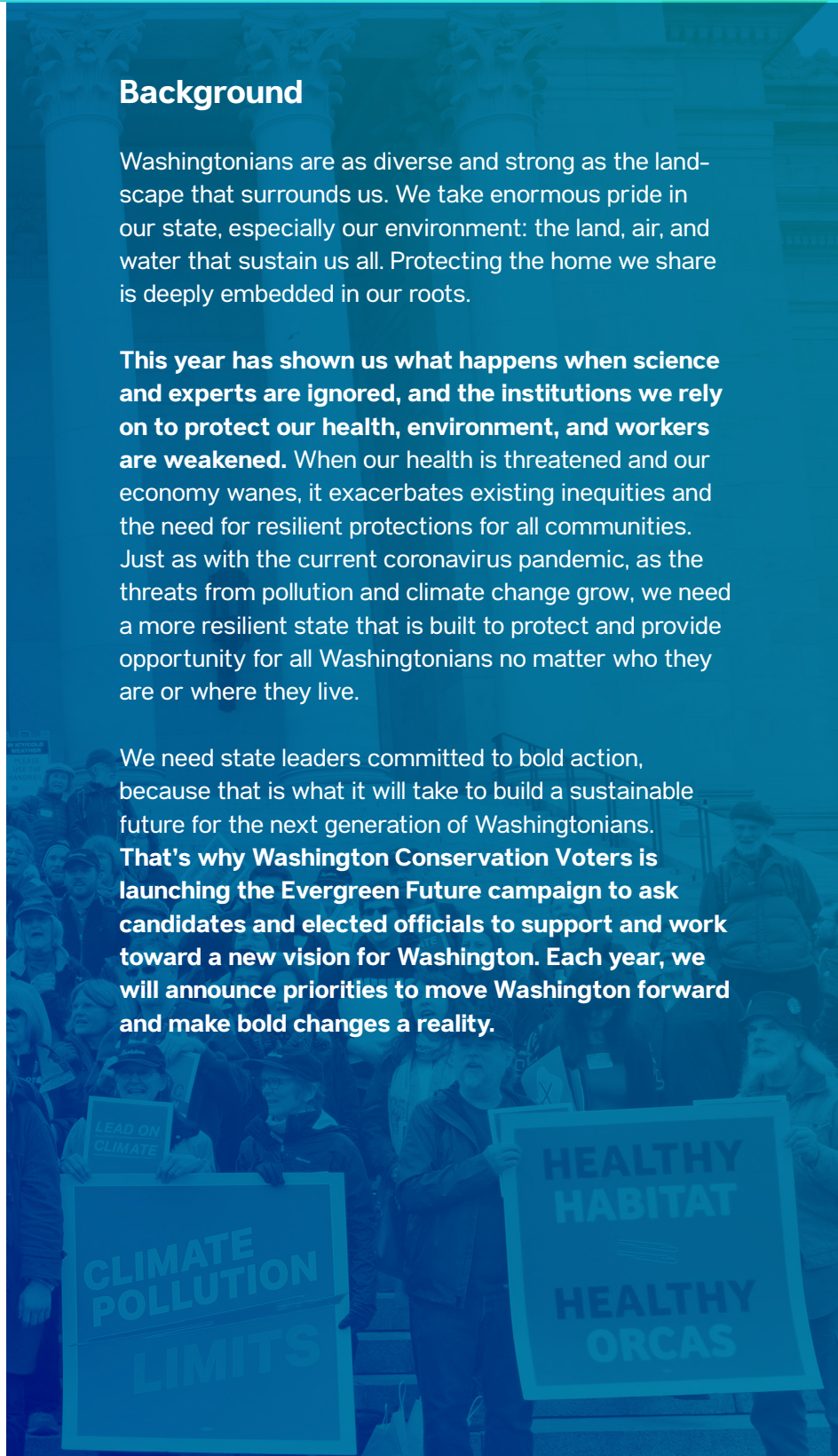
We deserve an economy and a government that works for us, not big corporate polluters.

Background

Washingtonians are as diverse and strong as the landscape that surrounds us. We take enormous pride in our state, especially our environment: the land, air, and water that sustain us all. Protecting the home we share is deeply embedded in our roots.

This year has shown us what happens when science and experts are ignored, and the institutions we rely on to protect our health, environment, and workers are weakened. When our health is threatened and our economy wanes, it exacerbates existing inequities and the need for resilient protections for all communities. Just as with the current coronavirus pandemic, as the threats from pollution and climate change grow, we need a more resilient state that is built to protect and provide opportunity for all Washingtonians no matter who they are or where they live.

We need state leaders committed to bold action, because that is what it will take to build a sustainable future for the next generation of Washingtonians. **That's why Washington Conservation Voters is launching the Evergreen Future campaign to ask candidates and elected officials to support and work toward a new vision for Washington. Each year, we will announce priorities to move Washington forward and make bold changes a reality.**



While we face unprecedented times, we know when we come together, we can tackle big challenges. Washington has made vital progress to protect our environment. We stood up to the fossil fuel industry and stopped the nation's largest oil and coal terminals, and led the country on holding big polluters accountable. In 2019 we passed the nation's best 100% clean electricity law. And we've protected millions of acres of forests, rivers, and local habitat to leave this place better than we found it for future generations. Washington has always been a place ready to lead and embrace the future.

But even with this progress, Washington's salmon runs are down 90% and orcas are threatened with extinction. We lose 800 acres of vital habitat and forest around Puget Sound every year. We are not fully supporting Tribal treaty rights. And climate change continues to threaten families across the state with more damaging floods and droughts, deadlier forest fires, and harmful pollution. Whether you are Black, White, Brown, Indigenous, Asian, or Latino we all face these threats together.

This is our chance to build a better future for generations to come. We cannot let corporate interests divide us and continue the status quo of profiting from the pollution impacting our communities. We must elect leaders who are ready to fight for an Evergreen Future for our state.

Together, we can build a future that protects all that we love about the place we call home.

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Act on Climate

Everyone deserves clean air, convenient transportation, living wage jobs, and communities that are healthy and affordable. Scientists say we have a narrow window to cut our pollution to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, and Washingtonians are already paying the price of climate change. By acting now, we can reduce pollution, expand a climate-smart workforce, and achieve net zero emissions or beyond by 2050.

Transportation & Land Use

Transportation is our largest source of climate pollution and affects all communities. We must update our transportation system to be clean, accessible, connected to affordable housing, and supported through strong public transit options.

- Modernize transportation funding systems and investments to incorporate a climate and equity lens and create jobs across the state
- Pass policies to reduce pollution from transportation fuels, such as a Clean Fuel Standard
- Accelerate the use of clean vehicles for light and heavy-duty vehicles and public fleets
- Add a climate goal to the Growth Management Act

Natural Climate Solutions

Natural climate solutions protect public health, local economies and quality of life for communities. We must invest in solutions that increase carbon sequestration and provide resilient defenses against fire, flooding, and sea level rise.

- Set targets and increase investments for carbon sequestration in forest, agricultural, and coastal lands, and require state agencies to use their authority to increase carbon storage in natural systems
- Fund wildfire resilience and risk reduction

Buildings

Clean Energy & Fossil Fuels

Buildings are the fastest growing source of climate pollution. Washingtonians need public and private buildings that are healthy, safe, efficient, and run on clean energy.

- Expand weatherization programs, standards for new construction, and retrofit buildings to generate clean energy to create jobs, lower utility costs, and reduce emissions
- Adopt a *Buy Clean, Buy Fair* policy to support public and private use of low-carbon materials, create good jobs, and support manufacturers in Washington State

Washington must accelerate an equitable and just transition to clean energy that creates good, living wage jobs. We know we can't build that future by locking ourselves into the fossil fuel infrastructure of the past.

- Prevent Washington from becoming an export hub for coal, oil, and fracked gas
- Increase and strategically invest public funds in our clean energy economy in urban and rural communities, such as building retrofits, weatherization, and research & development

Clean Water & Healthy Forests

Clean water and healthy ecosystems are the lifeblood of our state. People, fish, wildlife, and our economy depend on them to be safe and healthy. But Puget Sound, our rivers, natural areas, and beloved species like salmon and orca are stressed—from climate change, industrial logging, toxic chemicals, water pollution, and poorly designed growth and development. Now is the time to establish long-lasting and equitable solutions that support tribal treaty rights and protect resources reserved for treaties as well as secure clean water and healthy forests for fish and wildlife, communities, and future generations.

Built Environment

Land Management

After more than a century of degradation, we must modernize our infrastructure to serve people's needs, protect clean water and healthy natural resources, and create living-wage jobs.

- Increase public funding and strengthen programs for gray infrastructure (wastewater, stormwater pipes, roads), green infrastructure (forest lands, rain gardens), and drinking water
- Reduce transportation system impacts on water, fish, and wildlife by improving fish passage, culverts and reducing toxic stormwater runoff
- Support and fund the transition to modern pollution controls for wastewater treatment

We must protect and improve water quality from headwater forests to Puget Sound and the Pacific Ocean so that we have clean water to drink, and healthy habitat that supports fish and wildlife.

- Ensure growth and development protects the environment and leaves habitat in better condition for future generations
- Adopt sustainable funding sources for state trust land beneficiaries that provide reliable revenue for rural communities and don't pit natural resource protection against essential services funding
- Ensure that state funding as well as voluntary and regulatory programs are consistently using current science to protect and restore shoreline and riparian areas

Toxics & Health Disparities

Protecting public health has never been more important and where you live, your race, and your income should not determine whether you will be exposed to dangerous toxic chemicals. Leaders must take steps to address sources and reduce exposure to hazardous chemicals for everyone.

- Reduce harmful chemicals in everyday products to protect people, drinking water, and wildlife, establishing strong prevention measures that protect the most vulnerable

- Ensure investments in cleaning up toxic pollution are protective and equitable, address known hotspots, and increase the pace of cleanups
- Phase out use of the most dangerous pesticides in forest land management, and prioritize protection of waterways, worker health, and public safety

Environmental Justice & Public Health

Too many Washington communities face high levels of pollution, lack economic opportunity, and are overlooked in decisions that affect their lives. Leaders must craft solutions to deliver equitable outcomes. We also need decision-making systems that center those most at risk of harm and allow easy access to voting to elect leaders of their choice to advance the solutions communities need.



Systems for Equitable Solutions

The state must prioritize data-driven assessments on health disparities, listen to communities, and adopt solutions people need.

- Pass and implement the Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act, to add an equity lens to all policies and include people in decision-making in culturally appropriate ways to obtain solutions they want and need
- Provide solutions that ensure housing is affordable, safe, and located near critical services such as food, transportation, and healthcare
- Invest in and promote rural economic development opportunities that keep economic gains local, rather than going to out-of-state corporate interests



Voting Justice & Representation

The health of our democracy is critical to our future. Elections should be fair and transparent so every community can elect leaders of their choice.

- Ensure redistricting is fair, inclusive, and transparent
- Restore voting rights for people in community custody
- Support communities by reducing barriers to voting, improving transparency, and reducing corporate influence in elections

Hold Corporate Polluters Accountable

For too long, corporate polluters have been able to game the system, degrading our environment for their own financial gain. Even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, corporate polluters are pushing the federal government to roll back essential environmental protections. Elected officials have a responsibility to ensure that policy and funding solutions protect the communities they represent by holding polluters accountable and safeguarding public health, workers, and the environment.

Corporate Responsibility

Large corporations must not get a free ride and need to be held accountable to the communities they serve, the workers they employ, and they have a responsibility to pay for the harm they cause on our environment.

- Shape policies to support companies that give workers a stronger voice in decision-making, commit to local economic recovery, decarbonize their operations, and protect public health and the environment
- Ensure investments and funding sources prioritize front-line communities, protect workers, and require polluters to pay for the harm they cause such as climate change pollution, toxic chemicals, and activities that degrade habitat
- Require companies that make plastic, batteries, pharmaceuticals, and other harmful products to take responsibility for their end-of-life management, ensure true recyclability, and use safer chemicals and materials



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