WASHINGTON STATE GRANGE

PEOPLE • GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY • OPPORTUNITY

LEGISLATIVE HANDBOOK

INFORM • ENGAGE • ADVOCATE

A Stronger Washington
Through Rural Roots



ROOTED IN SERVICE
GROWING A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

2027 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The Washington State Grange is a non-partisan grassroots organization. The Grange does not limit any member's freedom to think, believe or vote as he or she pleases. However, we always give full support to good legislation that betters the lives of our members and all Washington citizens. Our primary legislative objective is to represent the views of rural residents and the agriculture community.

- ✓ We support the Agriculture Industry Farm Bill Initiative, which will address the needs of agricultural producers across the State of Washington.
- ✓ To spur economic development and virtual education opportunities, we support the expansion of broadband capabilities in underserved areas across the state.
- ✓ Washington's farmers and ranchers use best management practices to protect clean water and aquatic life. Multiple state and federal agencies work with growers to protect riparian habitat. We oppose expanding riparian buffers that could result in removing land from agricultural use.
- ✓ We oppose a State Income Tax on the people of the State of Washington.
- ✓ We support a fuel tax reduction or fuel tax holiday.
- ✓ We support a Property Tax Holiday/Reduction for senior citizens with an income qualifier.
- ✓ We support repealing or amending the agriculture overtime law.

GRANGE YOUTH/JUNIOR LEGISLATIVE EXPERIENCE
January 17-19, 2027
Begins Sunday evening, ends at 12 noon on Tuesday
For Grange Youth and Junior Members Ages 10-35 and their Chaperones

GRANGE LEGISLATIVE DAY
Tuesday, February 23
8 am to 4 pm
$20 per person (including lunch)

GRANGE LEGISLATIVE ZOOM UPDATES
Jan 25, Feb 8 & 22, Mar 8 & 22, and April 5 & 19 at 6:30 p.m.
Join Zoom Meeting: https://zoom.us/j/98036971581
Meeting ID: 980 3697 1581
One tap mobile +12532158782,98036971581# US (Tacoma)

INDEX

2026 Legislative Priorities - 1
Grange Legislative Day -1
Youth/Junior Legislative Experience - 1
Legislative Zoom Updates – 1
Index - 2

Agriculture - 3
Agricultural Education - 3
Agricultural Labor - 3
Agricultural Lands - 3
Animal Welfare - 4
Bees and Pollinators - 4
Dairy - 4
Food Standards - 5
Grain Standards - 5
General Issues - 5
Livestock and Poultry - 5
Marketing and Trade - 6
Noxious Weeds - 6
Pesticides - 6
Production - 6
Research and Science - 7
USDA Programs - 7

Conservation & Ecology - 7
Air Quality & Burning - 7
Carbon/Climate - 8
Conservation Districts - 8
Energy – Bonneville Power Administration - 8
Energy – Regulation of the Electric Utility Industry - 8
Energy Rates - 9
Energy Resources, Research & Technology - 9
Environmental Regulation - 9
Forest Management and Timber - 10
Public Lands - 10
Riparian Areas & Flooding - 11
Waste Management & Recycling - 11
Water – Dams - 11
Water – Irrigation - 12
Water Quality - 12
Water Resources & Water Rights - 12

Education - 13
Basic Education Funding - 13
Educational Programs - 14
Educational Transportation - 14
Higher Education – 14
Home School Education – 14
K-12 Education - 14
School Safety & Standards - 14

Fish & Wildlife - 15
Dept. of Fish and Wildlife - 15
Hunting & Fishing Regulations - 15
Predators - 16
Protected/Endangered Species- 16
Salmon Recovery - 16
Shellfish - 16
Wild Steelhead Recovery – 16
General Issues – 17

Health Care & Safety - 17
Deaf Issues - 17
Food Safety and Sanitation - 18
Health Care Services - 18
Insurance – 18
Mental Health - 18
Miscellaneous - 18
Professional Conduct - 18
Public Health & Safety – 19

State & National Issues - 19
Annexation of Cities/Towns - 19
Banking, Budget, and Finance - 19
Child and Family Issues – 19
Cooperatives - 19
Criminal Justice - 20
Elections - Campaign Financing -20
Elections - General Issues - 20
Elections - Initiatives - 20
Elections - Non-Partisan Offices-20
Elections - Presidential - 20
Elections - Primary - 20
Elections - Voter Registration - 21
Federal Govt. Operations -21
Firearms - 21
Growth Management - 21
Immigration and Citizenship - 21
Insurance - 21
Juvenile Justice - 22
Labor - 22
Land Use -22
Miscellaneous - 22
National Security - 23
Regulatory Reform - 23
Social Security - 23
State Agency Rules - 23
State Government Operations - 24
State & Federal Holidays - 24
Telecommunications - 24
Telephone Service – 25
Veterans Affairs - 56
Welfare Reform - 25

Taxation - 25
Fuel Tax - 25
Miscellaneous Taxes - 26
Property Tax - 26
Sales and Use Tax - 27
Tax Levies & Mandates - 27

Transportation - 27
Alternative Fuel - 27
Aviation - 27
Environmental Regulation - 27
Funding - 27
Licensing - 28
Maintenance & Improvements -28
Marine Transportation - 28
Pipelines - 28
Public Safety - 28
Public Transportation - 28
Rail - 29
Rest Areas - 19
Road Safety - 19
Safety – General - 29

AGRICULTURE

The Washington State Grange understands the importance and impact agriculture has on the vitality of our rural communities and the economy of Washington State. Agriculture needs an adequate labor force to produce food and fiber for the public. We support property rights, water rights, and the right to farm. We oppose excessive regulations and fees that hinder the ability of farms to produce food and fiber. As important as they are in the economy of Washington State, farms are more than agricultural businesses. They are homes for many of us, places where our care and hard work create livelihoods for ourselves and our neighbors, where our children learn the values and responsibilities that will make them good citizens. We will work toward more family farms, better access to land for more young people, and better support for farming from our governments.



Agricultural Education

1. We encourage the Washington State **Department of Agriculture** Fairs Commission to continue their volunteer work for the betterment of the agricultural fairs and youth shows across Washington State. (2026)
2. We support legislation securing a dedicated funding source for county and area fairs, community fairs, and youth shows across the State of Washington. (2018)
3. We support a stable source of income to fund programs such as FFA, 4-H, vocational agriculture, and other vocational programs. (2017)
4. We encourage all schools to include basic agricultural subjects in their STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) curriculum and/or CASE (Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education). (2025)
5. We support Washington Ag in the Classroom, a K-12 Ag Literacy Program. (2017)
6. We encourage agriculture to be integrated into environmental education programs in the science curriculum. (2023)
7. We recommend vocational agriculture courses and trade school opportunities be given high priority in both secondary and post-secondary public-school curriculum**,** including community colleges. (2023)

Agricultural Labor

1. We encourage the use of negotiating procedures to reduce losses caused by strikes. (2023)
2. We believe employers should not be held responsible for determining their workers' citizenship status.
3. We support children 13-15 years of age be allowed the opportunity to work in agriculture for wages. (2021)
4. We support legislation to clarify that the presence of a minor in a work area on a farm is not proof that said minor is engaged in farm labor and therefore, would not serve as cause to seize the crop and suspend the work. (2022)
5. We believe that minors should be allowed to work on their family's farm, or under the direct supervision of their guardian on someone else's farm. (2022)
6. We believe that no federal employee may halt the harvesting and transporting of any farmer's perishable crop by declaring the crop as "hot goods" without a special court order and the grower shall not be required to sign an admission of guilt to proceed with harvest. (2023)
7. We support seasonal flexibility for overtime pay of agricultural employees. (2021)

Agricultural Lands

1. We oppose state and federal proposals to halt historical farming practices on land included in wetlands and wetland buffers and critical areas.
2. We oppose buffers as a requirement not specified by farm plan best management practices. (2022)
3. We believe zoning codes and comprehensive plans should allow family members to set up residence on

family farms in cluster form without subdividing or short plating. (2019)
4. We support the Volunteer Stewardship Program (VSP) being applied equally to all landowners with valid resource concerns regardless of when the land went into production. (2019)
5. **We believe** all state and federal grazing leases should be required to have livestock to fill the lease. (2026)
6. We oppose any changes in the current Open Range Laws.
7. We oppose the sale or lease of public lands currently being used for agriculture for non-agricultural uses. (2022)
8. **We believe** government agencies should avoid agricultural lands **whenever possible** when selecting sites for roads and other facilities. (2026)
9. We believe that if a driver damages farm property, the driver should be required to cover the cost of the damage. (2021)
10. When a land lease is to be renewed, we oppose the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) putting it up for bid and giving it to the highest bidder while disregarding the current lease holder's investment. (2015)
11. We support legislation to stop "Potential to Pollute" harassment of animal owners by the Department of Ecology (DOE). (2015)
12. We support protecting land and livestock owners from liability if animals escape due to fence damage beyond the owner's control.
13. We believe when government entities craft bills or policies to create riparian buffers for salmon restoration, agriculture must be a partner in the process to ensure the result is workable, fair, effective, and sustainable. (2022)

Animal Welfare

1. We support improving farm animal welfare as an industry that will benefit economically. (2023)
2. We support efforts to ensure the strict punishment and liability of individuals and organizations that commit illegal actions against animal agriculture producers and biomedical researchers and facilities.
3. We support legislation to ensure the use of due process when investigating animal cruelty complaints.
4. We support rodeos and livestock shows and the use of livestock at these shows.

Bees and Pollinators

1. We encourage the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to educate beekeepers about protecting hives from mites. (2022)
2. We support a program to educate beekeepers about the requirement to ask landowner permission before placing bees and to require beekeepers to make hive location information available to pesticide applicators to protect hives. (2021)
3. We support legislation to reactivate the bee inspection program which was eliminated in the 1980's. (2016)
4. We support funding for honeybee research, especially the programs at Washington State University (WSU) and University of California-Davis. (2009)
5. We encourage the WSDA Pollinator Task Force to stay focused on its original mission of supporting healthy populations of pollinators and their habitat. (2020)
6. We believe the definition of honey stipulates a pure product that does not allow the addition of any other substance. (2025)

Dairy

1. We encourage the distribution of surplus dairy commodities to underprivileged residents of the United States. (2024)
2. We support continuation of the school milk program, including choices of milk, to be offered for both breakfast and lunch programs. (2023)
3. We support the National Milk Producers Federation programs.
4. We recommend that dairy heifers be vaccinated for brucellosis by eight months of age.
5. We encourage Washington State University's research on production efficiencies and new product development for the dairy industry.
6. We support continuation of the national advertising assessment of $0.15/cwt. With $0.05 used by the National Dairy Board and $0.10 returned to the producing state for promotion programs.
7. We support the concept of the dairy industry recommendations for dairy waste management.
8. We oppose the use of citizen lawsuits and over-zealous groups concerning nutrient management.



9. We favor continuation of the promotion of dairy products based on their merits.
10. We encourage imitation dairy products be plainly labeled, and that products not produced from the mammary gland of a mammal shall not be labeled as milk. (2021)
11. We support the USDA Federal Milk Marketing Order (FMMO) in their efforts to stabilize the fluid milk price. (2025)
12. We support the policies and regulations for a "Grade A, Raw Milk – Certified" milk grade and on farm sales of raw milk, that will ensure consumer safety and will support and not economically burden micro-dairies. (2026)

Food Standards

1. We support changing the definition of "hot goods" to exclude perishable farm commodities. (2015)
2. We encourage United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Inspections to allow horses to be used for human consumption or other beneficial uses. (2018)
3. We support the development of a state operated meat and poultry inspection program by adopting a MPI (Meat and Poultry Inspection) program and stamp. (2023)
4. We believe that only products naturally produced from animals may be labeled as meat or meat products. (2024)
5. We support legislation requiring all gluten-containing grains used to produce ingredients of a food product to be declared in the ingredient list of the products. We further support adding gluten to the FSA list of major food allergens. (2024)
6. We support the labeling of all foreign products, and their additives imported into the U.S. We recommend all imported food products be labeled as such. (2026)
7. We encourage strict inspections by U.S. inspectors to ensure foreign food products meet U.S. standards. (2026)



Grain Standards

1. We believe grain standards should be continually strengthened to improve the marketability of U.S. grains.
2. We oppose the addition or blending of feed quality grains with #2 or better grains.
3. We oppose all embargoes and sanctions on grain, food, medicine, or other humanitarian goods and services unless national security is involved.

General Issues

1. We support existing tax preferences that benefit our agricultural producers and oppose any legislation that would remove tax preferences that benefit agriculture. (2019)
2. We encourage state agencies to consider the Economic Impact Statement (EIS) prior to implementing regulations that will affect the profitability of agriculture. (2021)
3. We ask the legislature to study the cumulative impact of regulations and fees on the profitability of agriculture and make recommendations to minimize the economic impact. (2018)
4. We promote and encourage the tart cherry industry in Washington State. (2018)
5. We urge the United States Department of Agriculture to include Hay as a program commodity in the next USDA Farm Bill. (2025)

Livestock and Poultry

1. We encourage the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to include the quantity of meat imports in a biennial report.
2. We encourage state institutions to use meat produced and processed in this state.
3. We encourage continued licensing and inspection of custom farm slaughterers and meat facilities.
4. We encourage the USDA to require all states to have livestock identification programs. (2020)
5. We encourage the USDA to work to strengthen the biosecurity measures to keep animal diseases out of the United States. (2020)
6. We strongly encourage the USDA to keep confidential all information pertaining to Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) nutrient management plans and not be subject to public disclosure laws. (2007)
7. We support the Washington State Brand Inspection Program. (2007)
8. We support efforts to maintain commercial processing facilities for the humane disposal of unwanted agricultural animals. (2009)
9. We support stock watering as defined by RCW 90.22.04 and believe herd expansion should be allowed. (2022)
10. We support the use of exempt wells for livestock use.
11. We encourage the USDA to require each state to have an animal disease traceability program. We further encourage a state animal disease traceability program with adequate funding to maintain and operate the system. (2021)
12. We encourage the State of Washington make Canadian trucks hauling livestock through our state adhere to state and federal laws.
13. We believe that the responsibility of preventing a collision between a vehicle and livestock on an open range is the responsibility of the vehicle operator.
14. We oppose the regulation of methane produced by livestock. (2009)
15. We support legislation that would give the consumers the option of whether to buy cage free chicken eggs or caged chicken eggs. (2024)

Marketing and Trade

1. We support direct marketing of Washington farm products at farmers' markets, roadside stands, fairs, and other acceptable areas.
2. We encourage elected and appointed officials to uphold RCW 36.71.090 and interpret it to mean that farmers can sell their farm products on public property without a vendor's license or any other type of license or encumbrance.
3. We oppose budget cuts to the Small Farm and Direct Market Programs of the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA).
4. We support negotiation of favorable trade agreements with all nations willing to import commodities grown in Washington.
5. We support continual negotiations with the World Trade Organization (WTO) for fair prices for the agricultural industry. (2006)
6. We support the federal government negotiating a bilateral agreement with Japan that restores access and expands markets for American producers. (2019)
7. We encourage the President, Congress, our Governor, and our State Legislature to devise a plan to expand the export of Washington products to help reduce the federal trade deficit. (2024)
8. We encourage continued work on reciprocal trade agreements for meat imports and exports.
9. We support the WSDA, Washington State Department of Commerce (WSDC) and other market development entities in their efforts to develop new foreign markets for agricultural products.
10. We support all efforts by market development entities to procure Market Promotion Program (MPP) funds available from the U.S. Government to aid in developing new foreign markets.
11. We support Washington State University's International Marketing Program for Agricultural Commodities and Trade (IMPACT Center).
12. We support combining the Export Enhancement Programs (EEP) and Market Access Programs (MAP).
13. We encourage domestic marketing cooperatives to initiate joint ventures and to expand activities in international markets, including assisting developing countries in the purchase of U.S. farm commodities. We further urge the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) to continue to work closely with these cooperatives in creating new and expanded markets for our agricultural products worldwide.
14. We urge the establishment of tariffs and a tariff rate quota system for the U.S. Sheep Industry. (2024)
15. We support food sovereignty and self-sufficiency for our citizens through local control of communities to produce, process, sell, purchase, and consume locally produced foods. (2024)



Noxious Weeds

1. We support a requirement that all bird-seed packages include in the list of ingredients the genus and species of its contents to aid state and county weed boards in controlling the spread of noxious weeds.
2. We support cooperation between county weed boards to enact weed control programs where none currently exist.
3. We believe every county in the state must have a weed management program.
4. We believe the responsibility for controlling noxious weeds should be with the owners and/or operators of the land, be it public or private. (2023)
5. We recommend the state and federal governments utilize integrated vegetation management for weed control with an emphasis on biological control methods. (2021)
6. We ask that the Common Teasel (Dipsacus fullonum) be listed as a Class B noxious weed and put on the quarantine list in Washington State. (2020)

Pesticides

1. We support WSDA and WSU Extension Service in their work to educate the public about the need to control insects and pests in fruit trees near commercial orchards. (2022)
2. We oppose broad-based bans or restrictions on the use of agricultural chemicals until suitable alternatives have been developed.
3. **We believe** agricultural organizations should promote programs to inform and educate all users, rural and urban, about safe application of chemicals. (2026)
4. We support the Commission on Pesticide Registration in developing public-private funding partnerships regarding the registration of pesticides for specialty crops. (2020)
5. We encourage that pesticide regulations remain with the WSDA, and that sufficient funding and staffing be provided.
6. We recommend practical standards to be set regarding chemical trespass (no damage, no liability).

Production

1. We support increased technical assistance to farmers through both WSU Cooperative Extension and county conservation districts.
2. We support the "right to harvest" concept to allow the harvest of long-term crops.
3. We support the promotion of farming as a profitable and viable occupation with minimal regulation and will strive toward the goal of increasing farm profits.
4. We encourage the development of home farm businesses. (2008)
5. We oppose any application of the Business & Occupation (B&O) tax on retail sales of agricultural products sold by the producer directly to the consumer. (2021)
6. We oppose funding for the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem

Restoration Projects that would limit the ability of agricultural producers to farm productive land.

7. We recommend the WSDA continue their efforts to control the Apple Maggot, Spongy (Gypsy) Moth, Asian Gypsy Moth, and other infestations. (2024)

Research and Science

1. We support funding for agricultural research at land grant universities to assure safe food, lower costs, conservation of soil and water, and public health.
2. Because WSU is a land grant University, we recommend that the agricultural industry be involved in the nominations to the WSU Board of Regents. We further encourage individuals involved in agriculture to fill a minimum of one-third of the seats on the WSU Board of Regents. (2023)
3. We request when selecting the Dean of College of Agriculture, Human & Natural Resource Sciences and/or a Director of Cooperative Extension that the selection criteria demonstrate a commitment to the enhancement of agriculture and dedication to the traditional role of technology to the farm. (2011)
4. We support research on biotechnology, GMOs, and genetic engineering in agriculture. (2025)
5. We support funding for the Equine Program at WSU as a part of Animal Sciences. (2019)
6. We support research and development of biochar. (2010)

USDA Programs

1. We support the continued use of multi-peril crop insurance and the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation in preference to the disaster payment program.
2. We support the continuation of the USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). (2023)
3. We encourage consideration when developing farm programs to avoid programs that aid one segment of agriculture while damaging another.
4. We actively support the continuation of the Conservation Reserve Program.
5. We oppose attempts to reclassify the potato from a vegetable to any other food designated group in the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. (2024)



****

CONSERVATION & ECOLOGY

Grange members have long been recognized as good stewards of natural resources. We believe locally led conservation efforts are more effective and garner the most ownership by citizens and agencies. We believe that environmental protection and enhancement is possible without threatening prosperity or constitutional rights. We believe responsible stewardship of natural resources requires a balance between use and preservation.



Air Quality & Burning

1. We support local clean air agencies' authority to enforce agricultural burning rules and oppose placing a fixed limit on the number of days of allowable burning. (2022)
2. All heating and cooking devices must be allowed to be used if they were compliant with rules, regulations, or local customs at the time of installation without interference from local and state governments. (2011)
3. We support agricultural burning as a management tool. (2020)
4. We believe burning regulations should be based on scientific data. (2020)
5. We ask that any fees for all agricultural burning be used exclusively to fund public education about alternatives to debris and field burning practices. (2020)
6. We oppose any legislative action banning the use of internal combustion engines under 25 horsepower. (2024)

Carbon/Climate

1. We support cap and trade only if the following standards are met: (2010)
    a. proven environmental benefit by peer-reviewed science and historical data.
    b. does not cause undue economic disadvantages to the citizens of the state.
    c. all greenhouse gas emitters are treated equitably.
2. We support carbon related programs if they do not cause farmland to be idled, do not compete for funding with existing programs that support Washington farmers and do not increase taxes. (2019)
3. We support sound, peer-reviewed science, including historical data and all other objective scientific research concerning climate change. (2007)
4. We support recognizing the carbon stored in working lands and support that if there is a state program that pays for carbon, it includes the carbon stored in working and rural lands. (2020)
5. We ask that, should a low carbon fuel standard be enacted in the State of Washington, we would support provisions that mitigate the increased cost to rural residents and/or landowners. (2020)

Conservation Districts

1. We support the independence of the Washington State Conservation Commission and believe the conservation districts and the commission should be the lead agencies for all voluntary, incentive-based landowner stewardship programs. (2012)
2. We support the role of conservation districts to be the leading agency in providing technical assistance to landowners. We further recommend environmental enforcement agencies refer landowners to conservation districts prior to taking enforcement action. (2022)
3. We support conservation district elections as provided for in RCW 89.08.190. We support the recommendations put forward by the Washington Association of Conservation Districts-Washington State Conservation Commission Joint Committee of Elections spelled out to the commission on 9-16-2021, which includes:
    a. conducting elections every other year, rather than every year as done currently.
    b. extending supervisor terms (for both appointed and elected) from the current three-year term to a four-year term.
    c. conducting district elections during Conservation Month.
    d. allowing conservation districts the option to go on the general election ballot. (2022)



Energy – Bonneville Power Administration

1. We support Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) as the lead agency for marketing and delivering federal power, provided that: (2014)
    a. BPA offers cost-based contracts for wholesale power that allows local preference utilities to manage the federal resource in the most beneficial manner.
    b. BPA reduces non-essential programs and cuts costs so that its wholesale power resources remain competitive.
    c. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) policies don't interfere with BPA's operation of the regional transmission system.
    d. BPA is responsible for public ratepayer concerns and the public's concerns are reviewed on a regular basis.
    e. BPA operates under traditional policies that recognize the characteristics of the multipurpose Columbia River Power System.
2. We oppose any move toward making BPA impose market-based rates and support cost-based rates. (2014)
3. We join in support with consumer-owned utilities and residential ratepayers in a unified effort to ensure BPA keeps its wholesale rates at a reasonable rate. (2014)
4. We believe the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) should remain an agency of the federal government. (2025)

Energy – Regulation of the Electric Utility Industry

1. Regulations will impact utilities differently depending on the ownership, size of the utilities, geographic area served, rate structure, customer density, industrial lead and other factors. Because of these differences, local control becomes even more important. Federal and state laws should take local control into consideration to avoid mandates which may work in some areas but not in others. (2014)
2. We believe congress should also provide assurance that the disparity which causes rural areas to pay higher rates than urban areas do not become wider than they are today.
3. We believe the states, not the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), should retain the authority to design and implement Regional Transmission Organizations (RTO) and Standard Market Design (SMD).
4. We urge the FERC to allow our region to develop an alternative approach to strengthening the operation of the regional transmission system that addresses our unique

needs and does not expose northwest citizens to increased risks and costs.

Energy Rates

1. We strongly urge any proposed retail rate increase be presented to the consumers in a public meeting as close to the center of the service area of the proposed rate increase as practical. (2006)

2. We urge any proposed retail rate increase notification be provided at least three billing cycles prior to the date of the rate increase with text advising how much the increase will be and the justification for it. (2026)

3. We urge all utility companies to raise rates based on a source rate increase be required to lower rates just as efficiently when the source rates are lowered. (2006)

Energy Resources, Research & Technology

1. We support the research and development of conservative and energy efficient programs, co-generation, and renewable resources provided that any incremental costs associated with the resources are not shifted to consumers who do not receive the benefits of such resource development. (2021)

2. We support the right of utility consumers to refuse the use of smart grid technology at their service location provided that any incremental cost realized by the utility for providing service to such consumers is born by such consumers and not subsidized by the utility's consumers who participate in smart grid initiatives. (2014)

3. We recommend public utilities continue to respond to concern about electric and magnetic fields by supporting research and maintaining a high level of public information based on science. (2014)

4. The Washington State Grange shall work closely with the Board of Directors or Commissioners of all rural electric cooperatives and public utility districts and their state associations regarding the impacts of federal and state climate change policies and promotion of farm based renewable energy development.

5. We believe the development of commercial solar farms be regulated to include: (2021)

   a. Solar farm development is restricted from agricultural and grazing land of long-term significance.

   b. Solar farm development be restricted near populated areas.

   c. Zoning and construction regulations should not be altered to attract solar projects.

   d. As solar panels currently have a life expectancy of 25-years, a plan for cleanup and recycling of materials shall be included in the permit to ensure land can be returned to its original state if or when the project terminates, plus a reclamation fund be established.



6. We recommend that utility cooperatives also receive incentives for the development and use of renewable resources, clean energy technologies and internet utilities. (2024)

Environmental Regulation

1. We support legislation requiring all complaints registered with a state agency to be issued in writing with the complaints' name and address and be accompanied by a detailed description of the alleged infraction.

2. We support that prior to a state agency invoking emergency environmental regulations, the basis for the emergency should be made public, the danger to the public should be defined and emergency measures must be shown to reduce the danger.

3. All environmental rules, regulations and required practices should be based on current peer-reviewed scientific data and not cause undue economic or physical disadvantages to the citizens of the state. (2022)

4. When hazardous pollution is identified, all sources contributing to the situation should be regulated equally.

5. We believe environmental laws, rules, and regulations concerning land and natural resources must be made with equal balance and concern given to farms, fish, people, and wildlife. (2009)

6. We support the use of the Natural Resources Conservation Services' (NRCS) Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG). The FOTG contains a myriad of science-based peer-reviewed practices that landowners voluntarily use to improve natural resources for their land. We further believe that a fully implemented conservation plan meets all federal, state, and local regulatory requirements. (2014)

7. If a mining or oil company fulfills all requirements of environmental laws and regulations, we believe that government agencies should encourage the extraction of mineral products and expedite applicable environmental impact statements and all required permits. (2006)



Forest Management and Timber

1. We support sound management of all forested lands in the state as sustainable and renewable resources.
2. We support forest management policies that allow the post-harvest cutting of firewood. (2021)
3. We support the use of biological insect control of pests in forests and agricultural lands. (2023)
4. We support an independent economics analysis to be performed when creating or changing the designation of public preserves. (2009)
5. We support federal funding to the United States Forest Service (USFS) and other federal agencies which would allow the agencies to sustainably manage our nation's forests and reduce the wildfire fuel hazards in our forests. We also support increased federal funding of the USFS to assist state and local agencies in preparing for wildfire emergencies. (2023)
6. We support federal and state forest land management agencies' existing programs to address the forest health crisis in Washington. We urge congress and the Washington State Legislature to fully fund and direct these agencies to create and maintain healthy, fire resilient forest landscapes, and allow timely sale of forest products to offset the cost of forest restoration. (2013)
7. We believe timber that is diseased, charred, or blown down should be harvested as appropriate. (2009)
8. We support the Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act, or similar legislation, that will assist in reducing the threat of wildfires across the Western United States. (2020)
9. We encourage the expansion of livestock grazing on publicly owned forestland and rangeland as a tool in reducing wildfire fuel load. (2022)
10. We encourage the use of prescribed burning as a tool to reduce fuel build-up in the forest to minimize catastrophic wildfires. (2023)
11. We recommend that if forest land is lost to production due to riparian rulings and regulations made by the various levels of government, the landowner shall be compensated for the fair market value of the land and timber. Loss to timber due to stream setbacks shall be compensated in the same manner. (2021)
12. We encourage the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to work diligently toward management of all publicly owned timber for the highest value in dollars returned to the trusts. (2023)
13. We support lifting the export ban on timber harvested from state forest trust lands.
14. We encourage the Washington State Legislature to fully fund the Forest Riparian Easement Program (FREP). (2021)
15. We support vigorous efforts to restore the water retention capabilities of our forests as the preferred alternative to building human-made water retention facilities. We further support legislation requiring best management practices of all government-owned forests for the retention of water. (2026)

Public Lands

1. We support no net gain in publicly owned lands except to consolidate ownership to improve management.
2. We support a decrease in the amount of land declared to be surplus. Land should not be purchased for parks or wildlife refuges if sufficient funds for maintenance and operations are not available.
3. We strongly urge state and federal agencies to manage public lands by the following objectives:
    a. Multiple uses, grazing, controlled burns, timber harvests and recreation.
    b. Manage roadless and wilderness areas for the improvement of forest health.
    c. Exempt fire-damaged, insect-infested, and windfall areas from the appeal process so that the maximum value of the damaged material is realized through harvest and restoration measures and replanting may be accomplished at the earliest possible time.
4. We oppose the DNR purchase of additional lands to create Natural Area Preserves and the policy of no-access for low impact recreational use of these areas.
5. Local citizens and local governments should make decisions regarding protection and management of public lands. (2019)
6. We believe access to existing trails and roads on state lands should be free to the public.
7. We urge the DNR and the U.S. Forest Service to keep existing trails and roads open for public use.
8. We oppose all legislation that creates additional wilderness, State & National Parks, National Monuments, or other natural designated areas in Washington State without proper purchase from and/or approval of the willing property owner. (2024)
9. We support turning over the John Wayne Trail to the adjoining

landowners for their use and to control weeds while the State of Washington maintains ownership of the right of way for possible further use such as putting in a railroad or a trail if the State of Washington secures the funding for maintenance of said trail. (2016)

10. We oppose any legislation to create Wild Olympic Wilderness. (2019)

11. We urge the U.S. Forest Service to consider the economics and social impact on adjacent and enclosed communities about changing boundary lines within the National Forest Ranger Districts.

12. We oppose any legislation to add more rivers to the Wild Scenic River Act (2019)

13. We oppose the America the Beautiful Initiative, proposed via Executive Order by the Biden Administration. (2021)

Riparian Areas & Flooding

1. We support the ability of multiple counties to form a flood control district.

2. We support the creation of water retention facilities in the headwaters of river drainages to recharge upstream aquifers, provide for silt retention, and manage stream flows. (2022)

3. We urge landowners who have made a long-term commitment in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) to be allowed to perform beaver control to protect their riparian buffers and adjoining lands. (2013)

4. We believe management of sediment and silt from rivers would reduce damage from flooding and could be accomplished in accordance with all applicable laws and rules. (2021)

5. We recommend the Army Corps of Engineers and Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) implement, as soon as possible, the facilitation of restorative sediment management practices of rivers prone to flooding. (2024)

6. We believe proposed riparian management regulations should be reviewed to ensure consistency with peer reviewed science before adoption and/or implementation. (2021)

Waste Management & Recycling

1. We support community recycling and waste management education and programs.

2. We support strict criteria for the designation and operation of hazardous waste sites.

3. We believe placement of hazardous waste facilities should ensure no harm to neighboring lands. (2020)

4. We support the treatment of all hazardous waste to a benign state, regardless of source, before it is placed in a landfill.

5. We support the use of non-toxic sludge as a fertilizer when applied in a safe and environmentally-sound manner.

6. We support requiring oil spill equipment on board oil tankers.

7. We support research into making more recyclable products and the marketing of recyclable materials. (2020)

8. We strongly support programs to facilitate disposal and/or recycling of nuclear waste using the best available technology. (2008)

9. We support funding to develop plans for the use of digesters for treating sewage, manure, and food waste. (2008)

10. We support subsidizing the construction of methane digesters to produce heat and electrical power, and by-products. (2009)

11. We support more waste to energy incineration facilities. (2019)



Water – Dams

1. We oppose the removal of any dam in the Columbia/Snake River system. We further believe any plan to remove any dam in the Columbia/Snake River System must include an equitable and robust economic transition plan for the affected rural and agricultural communities. Any decision-making process must include the feasibility of replacing the dams' services with alternative methods of transportation, recreation, energy, and irrigation. (2023)

2. We support the dredging of Columbia and Snake Rivers, for barge traffic above Bonneville Dam and adjacent port facilities to a 14-foot shipping depth. (2006)

3. We support hydropower as a renewable resource. (2015)

4. Two-thirds of the electrical power generated by the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) is used in Washington, making it the foundation of our state's economy and our best hope for sustainable rural electric development. We support continued operation of this economical, clean, renewable resource with the following provisions: (2022)

   a. Continuation of postage stamp transmission rates throughout the region.

   b. Continuation of preference for non-profit public utilities for the output of the hydro system as established by existing laws.

c. A cost effective and biologically effective regional commitment to fish and wildlife management.
d. Regional control of both the hydro system and fish and wildlife programs.
e. Retaining public ownership of the FCRPS hydroelectric generative facilities.
f. Regional preference and the preservation of the benefits of the FCRPS for the northwest.

5. We suggest updating hydroelectric facilities at federal dams to increase efficiencies and provide greater fish and wildlife protection.

Water – Irrigation

1. We support increased storage, conservation, and other improvements which enhance a dependable water supply for irrigation. Water appropriated for irrigation should be based on a policy promoting and protecting the family farm.
2. We urge the orderly and timely development of the second half of the Columbia Basin Irrigation Project with reasonable long-term payment schedules and we ask that sufficient water in the Columbia River be maintained for this and other agricultural purposes.
3. We support the purpose of the Grand Coulee Dam to provide adequate supplies of water for agricultural irrigation and power.
4. We support the Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program.

Water Quality

1. We believe the most effective and least costly methods of conserving water quality are the voluntary programs carried out by local conservation districts.
2. We believe all water quality regulations should be based on current peer-reviewed scientific data.
3. We support realistic groundwater standards.
4. We oppose any effort to expand the scope or powers of the Puget Sound Partnership.
5. We believe large sewage operator's effluent should be treated on-site to remove all contaminants and be further treated through groundwater filtration before being discharged. (2015)
6. We believe that well- maintained on-site septic systems are a safe and effective means of disposing of human waste.
7. We believe it is the responsibility of local government to install the extension of the public sewage system within the public right-of-way, and not the responsibility of the property owners. (2015)
8. We believe when any state or federal agency finds fecal coliform sampling results which indicate a risk to human or environmental health, the agency must first determine the likely sources before mandating local action.
9. We support changes that allow a septic system owner to: (2020)
    a. Make timely reports on the status of their system.
    b. Immediately repair failed systems.
    c. Conduct self-inspections of on-site septic systems.

Water Resources & Water Rights

1. We recognize water resources as a fundamental part of the economy and way of life in Washington State. We believe the agricultural community should have a strong voice in water resource program development and watershed management. (2022)
2. We believe closure of any waters to additional appropriation should be based on peer-reviewed scientific data. We also believe permit exempt well users should not be affected by closures to new appropriation. (2022)
3. We support the repeal of the Department of Ecology's (DOE) instream flow rulemaking and require the department to initiate a new rulemaking process that includes and officially notifies landowners and reserves water for domestic uses. (2015)
4. We support a process for making water resource decisions on a watershed-by-watershed basis, based on peer reviewed science.
5. We encourage the State of Washington to accept the definition of the Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) as defined by the EPA as of June 22, 2020. WOTUS must provide clean exclusions for water features that have not traditionally been regulated and define terms in the regulatory text. (2020)
6. We support the desalination of saltwater for potable use. (2008)
7. We support the transfer of municipal water between communities and/or PUDs.
8. Regarding settling disputes over water rights, we support a decision-making process that emphasizes local expertise and the needs of agricultural and other local water users.
9. We oppose inter-basin water diversions and transfers except where they contribute to conservation. (2015)
10. We urge water rights to be not lost due to non-use without the consent of the water right holder. (2009)
11. We oppose an increase in water right application fees. (2010)
12. We support that permit exempt wells shall maintain the following:
    a. Provide water for livestock (no gallon per day limit or acre restriction).
    b. Watering a non-commercial lawn or garden ½ acre or less in size (no gallon per day limit).
    c. Provide water for a single use home or group of homes (limited to 5,000 gallons **per home** per day).
    d. Provide water for industrial purposes, including irrigation (limited to 5,000 gallons per day, no acre limit). (2024)
13. We support the private citizens' preferential right to claim and hold licenses for the construction or operation of hydroelectric facilities.
14. We oppose fees for water taken from and used on private lands to maintain homes and farms and support the protection of water rights for farms and private citizens' domestic use.

15. We are opposed to government metering and/or taxation of **private and/or residential** water wells. (2025)
16. We support the preservation of existing water rights in the State of Washington based on the prior appropriations doctrine.
17. Government agencies should recognize riparian water rights in balance with all other water rights.
18. We urge all water users to use equipment designed for maximum efficiency.
19. We urge to allow conserved water to be used on adjacent land.
20. We encourage the use of reclaimed water.
21. We encourage the legislature to adopt a water banking system.
22. Water right applications must be processed and finalized within three years.
23. We recommend that people who collect storm runoff water and rain catching systems on their own property retain the rights to the water saved because of their efforts and expense without metering or taxation.

****

EDUCATION



The Washington State Grange believes that a strong educational system is the cornerstone of our society. We continue to promote the teaching of American Civics in our educational system as well as Science, Technology, Engineering, Fine Arts/Agriculture, and Mathematics (STEAM), which remain essential components in our educational curriculum. We encourage all students to acquire a basic knowledge of agriculture in the curriculum, using tools such as Ag in the Classroom. It is important that all students have access to these programs and career opportunities. We believe that the involvement of parents and the community can be an asset to our schools and our students' ability and desire to achieve. We encourage Grange members to continue to volunteer in our schools and communities, which include The Words for Thirds Dictionary Project, school supplies, tutoring, 4-H and FFA, Ag in the Classroom and nutrition support. As an advocate for the family, we support parental participation in the educational process of our children.

Basic Education Funding

1. We encourage the legislature to fund basic education in public schools. This includes reading, language arts, science, technology, engineering, fine arts, mathematics, vocational, and any other education programs or requirements mandated by the state. (2021)
2. We urge that funds managed by the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (WTB) be equally distributed to rural areas as well as urban areas. (2019)
3. We support rural schools, oppose their closure, and believe that operation and control should remain local regardless of the funding source. (2014)
4. We believe Educational Service Districts should be fully maintained and efficiently operated.
5. We support a simple majority for the passage of school bond issues that support **construction and capital improvement projects for K-12** facilities. (**2025**)
6. We support the National Grange policy to federally fund all federally mandated education programs. (2019)
7. We believe programs for challenged and/or gifted children should be funded by the state. (2019)
8. We believe programs for substance abuse education should be funded by the state. (2020)



9. We support funding for Washington Talking book and Braille Library. (2022)
10. We support increased funding by the legislature for career technical education programs in school districts, especially in remote and underserved areas. (2020)
11. We support the establishment of a more equitable funding program of school choice with the goal of empowering parents and guardians to choose an educational program that suits the needs of their children. (2023)
12. We support funds from state lottery profits not already dedicated to state bonds to be used for public educational purposes. (2018)
13. We support the reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Communities Self Determination Act (SRSCA). (2020)
14. We support the funding of high-speed internet access for school students and staff across the State of Washington. (2020)

Educational Programs

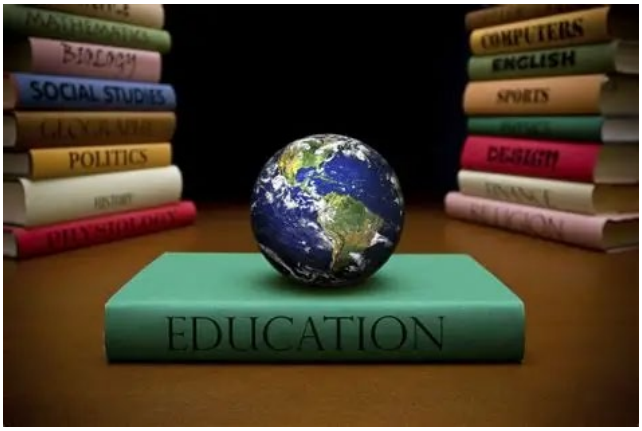
1. We believe that programs emphasizing appropriate personal interactions be funded by the state. These programs should include appropriate social media usage, bullying awareness, suicide prevention, age-appropriate sex education, and sexual abuse awareness. Appropriate reporting and methods to report will be taught. (2017)
2. We support curricular programs that provide technical, apprenticeship or higher education while still attending high school. (2017)
3. We encourage public and private schools and all colleges to promote education about cooperatives, including the cooperative business model. (2020)
4. We believe the ability to mandate and regulate curriculum should remain a local and state responsibility regardless of the funding source. We also oppose any attempt by the federal government to use federal funding or lack thereof as a means to mandate or regulate curriculum. (2025)

Educational Transportation

1. We favor a state cost-sharing program for drivers' education.
2. We encourage all school transportation funding to be based on actual miles traveled.

Higher Education

1. We oppose public higher education institutions basing tuition on a student's course of study. We support lawmakers in their pursuit to ban differential tuition in Washington and across the nation. (2013)
2. We support the WSU Extension Program and ask for it to have the same consideration and support as all other programs at WSU.



Home School Education

1. We support home schooling as an alternative to traditional basic education. This may include hybrid programs, which include combinations of home school, online school, and public education. (2025)
2.We support the right to home schooling with appropriate funding. (2022)

K-12 Education

1. We support the teaching of basic skills curriculum at all grade levels to meet specific goals as approved by local boards of education.
2. We support the teaching of reading and writing skills utilizing the most appropriate method to the students' learning style. (2022)
3. We encourage the legislature to consider an alternative approach to standardized testing that will lessen the impact of lost instructional time. (2017)
4. We believe elementary school students should be able to do basic mathematics before being allowed to use calculators in school.
5. We recommend that all schools establish STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts/ Agriculture, Mathematics). (2022)
6. We believe that civics, including the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution, should be taught and be displayed throughout the educational system. (2025)
7. We believe that all schools in the Washington public education system are required to instruct all capable students in developing printed and cursive handwriting skills and those skills be reinforced through the entire educational process. (2025)
8. We support allowing our teachers to set and maintain appropriate disciplinary standards in their classroom to create a healthy learning atmosphere. (2023)

School Safety & Standards

1. All schools should have emergency plans dealing with weaponized attacks, including training in de-escalation techniques. Plans need to be practical during instruction and non-instructional times. (2018)
2. We support the public school system in all its variations: language immersion, extended day, four-day, year-round, charter, school district sponsored home-school programs, alternative schools, etc. (2022)
3. We believe the Pledge of Allegiance should continue to be mandatory to open each day for all our schools. (2025)
4. We believe all school zone signage should be standardized statewide to read "Speed Limit 20 MPH When Flashing" with two amber lights. (2021)
5. We support legislation that meets the minimum federal guidelines for

student-to-nurse ratio in public schools, grades K-12. (2017)

6. We encourage parents and schools to improve safety education for bicyclists. (2021)

7. We support legislation to protect a parent's rights in the development of educational policy, which is fundamental to the upbringing of their children. (2022)

8. We support legislation that requires Washington State's elected school board directors to pass a criminal background check before taking the oath of office each time they are elected and that the Washington State Schoiol Directors Association (WSSDA) write a model policy to share with public school districts for adoption. After adoption, school districts will develop their procedures for this model policy. (2026)

****

FISH AND WILDLIFE

The Washington State Grange believes in shared stewardship when it comes to preservation for our fish and wildlife. This preservation should include regulations, the protection of endangered species and the continuation of recovery programs for fish and wildlife. We believe that citizens must not sacrifice property or surrender their U.S. Constitutional rights and that, if necessary, a compensation should be paid.



Department of Fish and Wildlife

1. We support the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) as a stand-alone department.

2. We support a State Fish and Wildlife Commission composed of one residing member for each of the state's game regions (six) and one member to be selected at large for a total of seven (7) members. We further support one member being **a landowner and** agricultural producer. **(2026)**

3. We encourage the WDFW to hold at least one hearing in an area that has proposed new regulations on problem game animals. (2009)

4. We believe that the landowner should prevail over a damage claim with WDFW, the claim and any cost incurred in proving this claim be paid back to the landowner within 90 days of filing a claim. (2020)

5. We encourage the WDFW to continue their enhancement of salmon stream rehabilitation. We encourage the use of hatchery propagation. We support and encourage the use of remote incubation boxes. (2023)

6. We urge the Department of Fish and Wildlife to develop a program for removing bears that damage young trees. (2020)

Hunting and Fishing Regulations

1. We support the manufacture and use of legal steel-jawed traps, and we support the interstate transportation and sale of products legally obtained through these traps.

2. We support the use of hounds and baiting as hunting aids to control predator populations.

3. We favor a policy of special hound permits being issued only to those who have hounds and will actively pursue the objectives of their permits. (2015)

4. We support enforcing severe penalties for poaching.

5. We support commercial gillnet fishing on the mainstream of the Columbia River where it is managed with gear type and timing to protect endangered wild salmon and steelhead. (2014)

6. We support the curtailment of drift net fishing on the high seas by all nations and would ask for total elimination of drift nets.

7. We support sound harvest management practices, including protecting our fisheries from foreign commercial harvest withing 200 miles of our shoreline, unless the 200-mile limit conflicts with the national boundaries of other countries.

8. We support the Columbia River salmon management over reallocation of most of the harvest to recreational fisheries. (2014)

Predators

1. We oppose the planting of predator species in the State of Washington. We further oppose the establishment of wildlife corridors to protect these predators. (2024)
2. We oppose the breeding of wolves or wolf hybrids.
3. **We support the right of all people and landowners to protect themselves and their property, including all pets and domestic animals from a predator regardless of whether predator is on any endangered species list or not. (2026)**
4. **We ask the WSFW to start considering the "take" of all predatrors and their influence on the prey animals health and movements. We furth ask that each predator's total population number be managed with consideration to all other prey and predators within the same exosystem so that total wildlife populations show a balanced populations without special consideration of one species over the other. (2026)**
5. **We support resident licensed hunters in Washington State be sued to help manage predator populations. (2026)**

Protected and Endangered Species

1. We encourage Congress to amend the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to restore proper perspective by requiring public hearings and economic impact statements on the impacts to the affected areas before a species may be listed. (2021)
2. We support changes to the ESA to require that only a pure biological and numerical definition of an endangered species be used without being based on subspecies, distinct populations, or hybridization. (2021)
3. We believe that only those species threatened with extinction should be listed under the ESA, taking into consideration total populations, available habitats, and recovery areas on the North American continent. (2021)
4. We further support a review of the ESA with the following guidelines: focus on keystone species (organisms critical to the stable function of entire habitats and ecosystems); rely on public lands for preservation; encourage voluntary protection; curtail taking of private lands for critical habitat; balance human costs with ecological benefits; compensation for private property owners for use of their property due to the ESA. (2021)
5. We support delisting the wolf as an endangered species in Washington State.
6. We oppose any new federal marine sanctuaries within the State of Washington.
7. We urge revision of the Marine Mammals Protection Act to exclude harbor seals and California sea lions.
8. We encourage the United State Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to only include public lands as critical habitat areas to protect the Mazama Pocket Gopher. (2019)
9. We strongly recommend that the USFWS provide safe harbor for livestock grazing activities, within critical habitat boundaries. (2018)
10. We support legislation advocating for the delisting of the Grizzly Bear, *Ursus horribilis*, from the Endangered Species Act of 1973. (2025)

Salmon Recovery

1. We support an unbiased, reasonable, scientifically based plan to mitigate the effects of hydroelectric operations on fish. This plan should also consider the positive effects of hydroelectric projects.
2. We oppose drawdowns and spills due to the lack of scientific data demonstrating true benefit to salmon recovery efforts and the damage to these measures inflicted upon our agricultural and transportation systems.



3. We support artificial transport of juvenile salmon and other methods of facilitating migration of fish past dams.
4. We support voluntary habitat restoration efforts by private landowners such as those promoted by the conservation districts.
5. We support stricter oversight of how salmon enhancement funds are spent and greater accountability to the public:
    a. Prior to beginning a project, groups must identify the proposed benefits at each site with an estimated timeline at which those benefits are expected to appear.
    b. Once a project has been completed, monitoring must be performed by the grantee to demonstrate whether the proposed benefits were achieved during the estimated timeline and report results to the public.
6. We support the use of spawned out salmon carcasses as a food source to remote site incubators and smolt release sites.

Shellfish

1. We support individual property rights and the harvest of shellfish on private and public tidelands, as the law should be applied to all people, and we urge vigorous defense of all citizens to protect and harvest shellfish. (2012)
2. We support the use of imidacloprid to control burrowing shrimp in our shellfish beds. (2018)
3. We ask the legislature to increase funding to research other methods of increasing oyster production and of controlling burrowing shrimp, thus protecting our oyster beds and oyster production. (2018)

Wild Steelhead Recovery

1. We support the catch and release policy of wild steelhead by Washington sport anglers. (2006)
2. We support policies designed to recover wild steelhead stocks in our state. (2021)
3. We support hatchery propagation of steelhead.

General Issues

1. We support educating students about fish propagation. (2021)
2. We support existing youth firearms education programs, such as hunter education programs and the 4-H and FFA shooting sports programs and we oppose any legislation that would restrict programs that educate our youth to use firearms and ammunition in a responsible manner. (2023)
3. We recognize the potential of livestock grazing to enhance forage resources for the benefit of wildlife and implement managed grazing where appropriate.
4. We support federal legislation to tag and remove all seals and sea lions from the Columbia River and its tributaries, the Puget Sound Basin, and the coastal rivers and harbors of Washington State to stop the destruction of the Washington State salmon runs. Any returning tagged seals and sea lions will be removed a second time. If they return a third time, they must be destroyed. (2025)
5. We encourage more awareness of environmental policies designed to help recover and prevent further depletion of wildlife in our state. (2018)
6. We encourage the Washington State Legislature to substantially increase the appropriation for the WDFW to support the hiring of adequate staffing to allow for properly managing elk herds in Washington State by means such as controlled hunts, humanely destroying diseased elk, purchasing, and installing more elk fencing, researching other possible means of control, and setting aside more money to expedite and make more equitable the damage claims made by landowners. (2022)
7. We support efforts to eradicate non-native harmful invasive species that threaten the native fish and wildlife of the State of Washington. (2024)
8. We believe it is important to work with other agricultural organizations to address and correct the inadequacies of WDFW proposed agricultural exemptions of critical habitat areas. (2026)



****

HEALTH CARE AND SAFETY

The Washington State Grange champions healthy, safe, and resilient rural and small-town communities by advocating for accessible, high-quality health care, strong local public health systems, and the infrastructure needed to support well-being at every stage of life. We recognize the unique challenges facing rural areas and support education, prevention, and reasonable practices that strengthen community safety, protect families, and ensure that every community – regardless of size or location – has the opportunity and resources to thrive today and for generations to come.



Deaf Issues

1. We support mandatory hearing tests with regular check-ups for children from birth to five years of age.
2. We support adequate funding for the Washington School for the Deaf.
3. We urge 911 operators and emergency crisis center workers to have telecommunications devices for the deaf training. (2022)
4. We request the Department of Licensing (DOL) be required to note

deafness or significant hearing loss of individuals on their drivers' license and/or identification cards. (2020)
5. We support schools with hearing-impaired students being required to hire only sign language interpreters meeting qualification standards set forth by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID). (2022)

Food Safety and Sanitation

1. We urge strict food safety standards. (2026)
2. We oppose mandatory water fluoridation in any public water supply. (2008)
3. We support a revision to the Food Safety Modernization Act that would lessen the burden to U.S. producers. (2023)

Health Care Services

1. We support incentive programs to reward medical providers who practice in rural areas.
2. We support policies that improve the quality of health care services available to rural citizens.
3. We support a rural hospital policy which does not compromise the authority of local hospital commissioners regarding budgets, services available, or the management of the facility. The standards for a license to operate a rural hospital should address the appropriate capital investment for small, lower volume facilities. If universal acceptance is required of rural hospitals, there must be matching financial support.
4. We encourage legislation that provides financial support for memory care patients to stay in their own homes, as well as additional memory care facilities. (2022)

Insurance

1. We believe basic Medicare should pay at least $500 coverage per hearing aid. (2021)
2. We support the ability of Medicare and Medicaid to negotiate with drug companies for the price of prescription drugs. (2018)



3. We believe the Medicare program should include basic routine dental services. (2023)
4. We support legislation to include coverage for essential immunizations, such as shingles, pneumonia, and others, under Medicare, Part D. (2022)
5. We believe legislation should be enacted to limit the amount of increase in premium an insurance company can apply to a long-term care insurance policy per the entire class of customers opposed to a rate increase based on an individual insurance age or health. We further believe all long-term care insurance policies should include a buyout option that would allow a client an option to use the premium paid to date to be applied to a paid-up policy. (2025)
6. We support legislation that mandates insurance companies to offer coverage of infertility treatments. (2025)

Mental Health

1. We ask the legislature to reinstate or establish mental health (psychiatric) institutions and/or regional outpatient facilities. These institutions and/or outpatient facilities be staffed with mental health professionals. We also ask the legislature to fully fund these facilities. (2024)
2. We encourage the State of Washington to work to increase staffing and incentive programs for mental health professionals, especially in rural areas. (2023)
3. We support legislation to provide available facilities with mental-based health support to all veterans transitioning from military to civilian life if the veteran chooses to avail themselves of the opportunity. (2024)

Miscellaneous

1. We support medical research on the benefits of marijuana in the treatment of disease. (2017)
2. We support the repeal of the Washington Cares Program. (2022)
3. We oppose legislation which would allow the importing of non-FDA approved prescription drugs into the United States. (2019)
4. We urge the Washington State Department of Health to investigate and approve faith-based programs as an alternative to State licensed chemical dependency recovery programs. (2024)
5. We support legislation that requires the patient to fill out a credit application prior to any procedures to be paid for with credit, while not under anesthesia and the application not be completed by provider without the patient's knowledge or consent. (2025)
6. We support the development and accessibility of pill-form medications as a critical component of modern medicine and rural healthcare access. We urge Congress to amend or repeal the provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act that create a disincentive for the development of pill-form medications, ensuring equitable support for all drug delivery methods in federal pricing policy. (2025)
7. We advocate for complete transparency and accurate accountability within the pharmacy benefit manager system to lower prescription drug prices for patients to assure survival of our local pharmacies in rural communities. (2025)

Professional Conduct

1. We support limited liability for medical professionals to contain health care costs. (2025)
2. We support the disclosure of family medical histories of adopted persons to better determine medical diagnoses and treatment.

Public Health & Safety

1. We encourage all individuals be vaccinated. (2023)
2. We support EPA's safe dioxin levels and the requirement of a warning label for products exceeding that limit. (2022)
3. We support a public education campaign on the dangers of prescription opioids and illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana. (2018)
4. We support drug-free workplaces.
5. We support service animals having a universal identification tag, collar, or coat. (2023)
6. We support the right of any individual to choose for themselves and their dependents what foods, medicines, and medical procedures they will or will not use provided such choices do not impact public health. (2023)
7. We support efforts to clarify the labeling of food expiration dates to either: "Best if used by" to indicate that products will decline in quality or freshness past the date on the label, or "Use by" to indicate that a product's safety risk can increase after that date, both of which already have support from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). (2023)
8. We support child and family issues to include a strict definition of child abuse or neglect as well as adoption of rules for, and continued funding of, community public health and safety networks. (2026)

****

STATE & NATIONAL ISSUES

The Washington State Grange believes that every community benefits from a viable economy, a wholesome family living space, and a sense of community pride. We believe strong communities can be maintained through shared responsibility in local concerns. We must guard against the temptation to believe that the government can best solve all problems. We support all efforts to develop leadership and problem solving at the most local level such that strong family units and commitment to community service are preserved.



Annexation of Cities and Towns

1. We urge that state law be changed to ensure the following provisions:
    a. All property owners shall have an equal right to vote on annexation.
    b. An outside utility agreement may not be used as a vote or counted as a signature on a petition for annexation.
    c. 65 percent approval of property owners should be required to approve an annexation.

Banking, Budget, and Finance

1. We support increased penalties for fraudulent use of credit card data. (2020)
2. We support laws that would restrict the interest rates charged on credit cards to not more than five percent above prime. (2008)
3. We support continued federal funding of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. (2025)

Child and Family Issues

1. We support specific guidelines to ensure that legal authorities prevent the return of children to an unsatisfactory living environment. (2023)
2. We oppose any legislation allowing the state to remove children from legal custodial parents without following due process except in life threatening situations. (2023)

Cooperatives

1. We recognize the cooperative business model can be a tremendous force for achieving economic development in our rural communities. We encourage the legislature to retain and improve cooperative laws and regulations that

promote the economic well-being of our state. (2023)
2. We feel that local member-controlled cooperatives could be the best vehicle for providing broadband services for rural residents. (2007)

Criminal Justice

1. We urge Congress to keep the number of members of the United State Supreme Court at one Chief Justice of the United States plus eight associate justices and oppose any legislation that will remove the lifetime tenure of the justices of the United States Supreme Court. (2020)
2. We believe that when a convicted criminal appeals, all issues that are known should be included to eliminate multiple appeals at taxpayers' expense.
3. We urge those arrested for drug related crimes be tried within a short time and if convicted, their personal assets should be subject to seizure for restitution to any victim involved in that specific crime.
4. We support the power of death row inmates to resign their right to appeal.
5. We support changing the insanity defense from "Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity" to "Guilty but Insane." Individuals found guilty but insane under this law would be placed in a mental institution until they are found competent, and, at that time, they would be incarcerated for their full sentence.

Elections - Campaign Financing

1. We strongly support partial public financing of state and federal campaigns. (2007)
2. We support the federal campaign disclosure that provides the names of people who are the top donors to independent political committees. (2012)
3. We urge Congress to adopt rules that would prohibit any member of Congress from accepting contributions or donations from registered lobbyists or lobbying firms. (2019)

Elections – General Issues



1. We oppose term limits on federal elected officials until such a time that all 50 states adopt a similar policy.
2. We believe that precinct committee officer elections should be paid for by political parties. (2011)
3. We support changes to state law so that the registered voters of each county commissioner district shall elect from among their own number, each county commissioner. (2012)7
4. We oppose the elimination of elections in odd-numbered years. (20722)
5. We oppose legislation reverting Washington to in-person voting. (2025)
6. We oppose federal legislation forcing an end to vote by mail or creating undue burdens to access vote by mail. We further believe the use of vote by mail remains a decision of each individual state. (2025)

Elections - Initiatives

1. We oppose legislation which could limit the citizens of the State of Washington of their right to express their desires through the initiative and referendum filing process. (2025)
2. We support legislation to change the Washington State Constitution to require a two thirds majority of both houses of the legislature and the approval of the governor to override the vote of the people following the passage of an initiative. (2012)
3. We believe it should be required that when gathering signatures for a statewide initiative not less than six percent (6%) of the signatures be gathered in at least twenty-six (26) counties and/or two-thirds (2/3) of legislative districts in the State of Washington. (2013)

Elections – Non-Partisan Offices

1. We support a change in state law that all elected offices at a level below state, except for Precinct Committee Officers and County Commissioners in non-chartered counties, be nonpartisan. (2018)
2. We ask that the positions of Secretary of State, State Auditor, State Treasurer, Insurance Commissioner, and Commissioner of Public Lands be non-partisan in the State of Washington. (2021)

Elections - Presidential

1. We support the Nebraska/Maine plan of allocating electoral votes based on congressional district results. (2009)
2. We support legislation that will allow candidates' names to be removed from the presidential primary election ballot if they withdraw from the election or suspend their campaign. (2022)
3. We oppose any movement to change the current method of electing the President of the United States by the Electoral College. (2010)
4. We ask that the cost of the Presidential Primary Election in the State of Washington be borne by the political parties and not by taxpayers or any government entity in the State of Washington. (2020)

Elections – Primary

1. We oppose changes to the Washington State Top Two Primary Election System. (2022)
2. We believe that the Washington State Top Two Primary Election System should be formally called "The Grange Style Primary." (2008)

Elections - Voter Registration

1. We oppose voter registration by party, party declarations at the primary, lists of voters by party and separate ballots for each political party.
2. We urge that all voter registrations be accompanied by proof of U.S. Citizenship. (2007)
3. We oppose election-day voter registration. (2007)
4. We support revisions as needed of voter registration policies and procedures and the maintenance of up-to-date roles of registered voters. (2021)
5. We oppose all legislation to lower the current voting age of 18 years at either the state and/or national levels. (2020)

Federal Government Operations

1. We support legislation to establish English as the official language of our state and nation. (2020)
2. We ask for an amendment to the Constitution of the United States that protects the recitation of:
    a. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, which shall be: "I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."
    b. The use of the National Motto, which shall be: "IN GOD WE TRUST."
3. We request that Congress recognize the balance of powers between the federal and state governments established in the 10th Amendment to the Constitution by delegating any functions to the state that can be more effectively performed and regulated at the local level. (2009)
4. We support adding the Secretary of Agriculture as a permanent member of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S. (CFIUS). (2023)
5. We believe Congress should make no law that provides special treatment to members of Congress. (2010)
6. We believe that when the U.S. Government shuts down because Congress has not approved proper funding, the Members of Congress shall not be paid for the time the government is shut down. (2019)
7. We continue to support the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) at all levels of government.
8. We believe that public, state and/or local funds should not be used to build and/or remodel professional sporting facilities without a public vote. (2010)
9. We support the constitutional limitation on the Executive Powers of the President and Governors. (2012)

Firearms

1. We urge that laws dealing with background checks on the purchase of firearms be enforced before any new regulations are enacted. (2026)
2. We oppose mandatory or mass registration of firearms, firearm owners, ammunition, and purchasers of ammunition.
3. We support the right of U.S. citizens to keep and bear arms and oppose legislation that threatens or weakens this right.
4. We encourage firearm safety education for all. (2022)
5. We oppose mandatory lock-up of firearms.
6. We support the use and production of lead or lead compound bullets and slugs.
7. We support a national concealed carry reciprocity act that would allow all states to recognize all concealed carry permits. (2019)
8. We support the current Firearms Preemption Statute and oppose any efforts to weaken or eliminate its effects. (2018)
9. We urge Washington State to return to solely utilizing the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) for firearm purchases, with the eligibility of purchase and immediate possession determined at the point of sale. (2025)

Growth Management

1. We favor local government having a voice in control of the design of all comprehensive plans.
2. We recommend that local governments set all building permit rules and regulations.
3. We oppose adding any additional goals to the Growth Management Act and that counties be allowed more flexibility in how they meet the goals of the Growth Management Act. (2021)
4. We oppose legislation that takes zoning regulations and residential density decision making power away from cities and counties. (2024)

Immigration and Citizenship



1. We support setting immigration qualifiers that focus on an individual's job skills and character to strengthen and build the American economy. (2013)
2. We believe individuals, groups or agencies that sponsor immigrants to this country for residency should be responsible for providing food, shelter, school, and medical assistance for the first five years of residency; excluding the agricultural guest worker program.
3. We believe that babies born on U.S. soil of parents who are non-citizens should not be automatically granted U.S. citizenship. (2020)
4. We urge the legislature to enact restrictions on eligibility for in-state tuition for non-resident aliens.
5. We oppose blanket amnesty for undocumented immigrants. (2021)
6. We support a tough but fair pathway to citizenship for illegal immigrants currently living in the United States that is contingent on securing our borders. (2013)

Insurance

1. We support prohibiting the Department of Licensing (DOL) from issuing vehicle licenses to owners/ users that cannot show proper proof of insurance on their vehicles.
2. We encourage the Washington State Insurance Commission to adopt

a policy to make drivers liability insurance primary to the vehicle owners liability insurance. (2017)

Juvenile Justice

1. We recommend increasing parental rights and responsibility over minors by:
    a. Enabling parents of habitual runaways to place the runaway in a safe facility for as many as 180 consecutive days.
    b. Requiring shelters to notify parents or guardians of a runaway child within a reasonable time, not to exceed eight hours after the identity of the child is known. (2024)
2. We support boot camp style and skill training work camps for juveniles who are convicted of crimes except for a Class A felony. (2026)

Labor

1. We oppose hiring quotas and support a system in which all job applicants are treated equally and hired based on experience, aptitude, past performance, attitude, and other personal qualifications.
2. We believe parents and their teens should make decisions regarding teenage labor and oppose any rules or regulations limiting the ability of parents and teens to make such decisions.
3. We oppose the state's extension of mandated arbitration for law enforcement officers to small local governments (cities with populations of less than 2,500 and counties with populations of less than 10,000.) (2020)
4. We oppose any attempt to limit the ability of employers to have meetings with their employees.
5. We support the secret ballot for unionization elections.
6. We oppose any legislation to reduce the standard work week below 40 hours. (2026)

Land Use

1. We support requiring government entities to compensate private property owners for actions which reduce the value of or limit their ability to use their land. We urge this compensation to adequately reflect the true value of the property being taken as determined by an independent appraiser. (2022)



2. We believe wetland preservation and wild and scenic designations require annual review to prevent wrongful treatment of landowners and infringement on private property rights. (2025)
3. We support legislation that requires government agencies to publicly review potential land use rules to determine necessity, cost to private landowners and the least burdensome alternative to landowners.
4. We believe that private property rights should have precedence over environmental concerns.
5. We believe land use regulations should be consolidated, the permit process simplified and applications acted upon in a timely manner. (2026)
6. We believe public trails can be incompatible with agricultural lands and that abandoned railroad rights-of-way revert to or be offered to adjacent landowners.
7. We believe agencies should be prohibited from using a wetland delineation process that is more stringent than that used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
8. We support legislation to define "public use" for the purposes of eminent domain as currently interpreted by the Washington State courts to prohibit the use of eminent domain for any other purpose and to give the original property owner or his or her successors the first right to buy back the property in its original condition at the value established in the eminent domain proceeding if the state or local government subsequently decides to dispose of it. Any devaluation of the property will be compensated in addition to the value originally established. (2006)
9. We oppose any changes to the current immunity of farmers from liability for injuries resulting from recreation or other uses of their land by the public.
10. We support legislation to require any entity to notify property owners in a timely manner, directly and in writing, whenever changes are being proposed that will affect the use, enjoyment, or value of that property in the future. (2010)

Miscellaneous

1. We support the continuation of the State Fire Marshall's office and the County Fire Marshall's for their assistance in arson investigations.
2. We support a statewide public education campaign to promote the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio service.
3. We support extending the notice provisions of state law now applicable to improvements to owner occupied residences to similar improvements to agricultural structures on the same property.
4. We oppose any efforts by the state legislature to adopt rent control, to allow for more local solutions to prevail. (2020)
5. We recommend that the historic names of cities, counties and other geographic features be respected and retained whenever possible. (2006)
6. We encourage striking the word "male" and insert "all" in Federal Law (50 U.S.C. App.451 et. seq.) regarding Selective Service. (2019)

7. We support those individual rights of American Citizens as set forth in the United States Constitution. (2012)
8. We believe that each cemetery district in the State of Washington should remain a standalone entity. (2026)
9. **We believe that if a cemetery district consolidates with a different type of taxing district, those funds held in reserve by the cemetery district shall be used for capital improvements or land acquisition for the former cemetery district. (2026)**
10. We support a requirement that all public construction inspectors conduct inspections within 48 hours of scheduling and if this time frame cannot be met, the inspector must contact the contractor to schedule an inspection to be done within five working days of the original date. (2024)
11. We believe that rules governing aerial data gathering should apply equally to manned and unmanned platforms. (2015)
12. We urge the implementation of Standard Time on a year-round basis in the State of Washington. (2025)
13. We urge revision of the Civil Asset Forfeiture laws requiring the reasonable standard to be raised from "preponderance of the evidence" to "clear and convincing" and before civil asset forfeiture can be utilized, the defendant shall be convicted by a court of law. (2017)
14. We support radon testing that is required on all new construction and in contracts when selling a single-family home. (2018)
15. We support the Local Journalism Sustainability Act or similar legislation. (2024)
16. We support legislation that would automatically terminate all "reversion" clauses in property deeds after 75 years in the State of Washington. (2020)
17. We oppose efforts to defund or disband law enforcement. (2024)
18. We encourage the state legislature to abolish "swipe fees" for using credit cards for the payment of restaurant meals, fast food, and home delivery of food items. (2024)
18. We support placing limitations on state and federally funded indigent legal service groups.
19. We support legislation ensuring the consumers; right to repair their items with the repair service of their choice, including going outside of the original manufacturer or dealership. (2025)
20. We oppose biological males in female sports. (2025)
21**. We urge Congressional adoption of the Tsunami Warning, Research, and Education Act of 2026 (S 21) or other similar legislation that will assist in preparing our nation's tsunami warning systems and improving tsunami preparedness. We further encourage the United States government and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) work with other nations to strengthen tsunami preparedness of our coastal communities. (2026)**

National Security

1. We oppose implementation of any border-crossing fee for citizens traveling legally across the Canadian border.
2. We favor adequate staffing of border patrol personnel at international points of entry.
3. We oppose trade agreements that do not have positive benefits for our country and any agreements that compromise national security or national sovereignty. (2021)
4. We urge congress to make the protection of the Electrical Grid a top priority of National Security. (2019)

Regulatory Reform

1. We support an increased emphasis upon technical assistance over punitive fines and restrictions.
2. We believe that any citizen or group of citizens that wins a lawsuit in the State of Washington should be compensated by the losing government entity for their legal fees within twelve (12) months. (2025)
3. We support government transparency. (2010)
4. We urge lawmakers to have the Washington Public Records Act rewritten so that it is not such a burden on government agencies and/or counties and that people cannot make a profit from this act. (2017)
5. We support legislation requiring all storm water service charges and rates collected on parcels of any authorized Diking, Drainage, or Sewerage Improvement District, formed and operating under RCW Title 85, be deposited into the revenue account of that Diking, Drainage, or Sewerage Improvement District and not into the County Storm Water Fund. (2022)

Social Security

1. We support the right of individuals to invest a portion of their Social Security contributions in the private market.
2. We urge congress to protect the Social Security Fund, thereby keeping it solvent for the purpose it was created.
3. We support legislation raising the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) resource limit. (2025)
4. We urge Congress to have the Social Security taxable earnings threshold be raised to $600,000 with an annual adjustment for inflation. (2025)



State Agency Rules

1. We encourage the State of Washington when negotiating contracts for services or supplies, to not pay more than retail or market value for items, services, or supplies.
2. We urge the Washington State Legislature to put in place a cap of 10% of state allocated funds to be

used for Salaries and Overhead Expenses of operating NGO's (Non-Governmental Organizations) for the Homeless. (2026)

State Government Operations

1. We ask the Governor and his or her administration to utilize the principles of open government, public participation and consideration of personal knowledge and integrity when considering candidates solicited from community and civic organizations for appointments to various boards and commissions.
2. We support legislation that would limit the Governor's emergency orders under RCW 43.06.220 (1) (h) to 30 days unless further authorized by the legislature or if the legislature is not in session, by the unanimous approval of the leaders of both parties in the state house and senate. (2023)
3. We urge the state legislators and state government agencies to periodically review state laws and repeal those declared obsolete. (2024)
4. We support legislation outlining the steps necessary to create new county governments when the appropriate signature requirements have been met.
5. We urge lawmakers to make changes to the current Washington State Adverse Possession law to better protect the owners of real property from the unjust taking of one's property. (2017) This should include:
    a. Trespassers must believe they own the property in question.
    b. The use of someone's property for grazing livestock does not justify a reason to take possession of the property.
6. We support an amendment to the State Constitution establishing a Permanent Savings Fund into which a small percentage of state revenue will be consistently deposited, with only the earnings on said fund investments to be available for spending. The investment priority of the principal shall be bonds issued by local governments in the State of Washington. (2010)
7. We urge the WA State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), the Washington State Department of Ecology (WDOE), and the Washington State Legislature to develop and fund stronger, more effective, and more coordinated programs for roadside cleanup, illegal dumping prevention, and long-term maintenance. (2026)
8. We oppose any legislation to remove or change the lengths of the State of Washington legislative sessions. (2026)

State & Federal Holidays

1. We support reinstating the observance of February 22nd as a National Holiday to honor our Nation's first President, George Washington.
2. We support a National Observance Day honoring Eleanor Roosevelt, a fellow Granger, and her contributions both to the American people and on behalf of international human rights. (2020)
3. We oppose any efforts to change Victory over Japan (V.J.) Day to End of the War in the Pacific Day.

Telecommunications

1. We support a telecommunication system that offers a common communication path capable of accommodating open, affordable access to all buyers and sellers of the service and that this service maximizes the choice of the buyer while enhancing the competition and participation of the sellers.
2. We support the adoption of legislation that will facilitate the process of interconnection of public and private voice, video and internet services at a local level while assuring carriers that interconnect is fully compensated for any use of the facilities.
3. We support legislation which allows and encourages **private citizens and businesses,** consumer groups, municipal corporations, and public utility districts to establish or enhance the use of broadband and telecommunication facilities. (2026)
4. We support allowing satellite television companies to provide customers with access to any specific local channels in the customer's region. (2007)
5. We support regulatory oversight of wireless communications as well as other areas of telecommunications by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission. (2021)
6. We oppose any telecommunication rate increase which creates two-tiered urban and rural rate classes and unfairly increases rural rates higher than urban rates.
7. We support competition between all telecommunication service providers that will assure reasonable rates, universal service, and infrastructure modernization.
8. We support legislation and regulatory oversight to assure open access to telecommunication services nationwide, including geographic rate averaging and the Universal Service Fund, which helps rural companies to serve high-cost areas through support derived from long distance companies.
9. We support the development of broadband telecommunication technology in all rural areas of the state. (2007)
10. We support legislation to require all continuing online transactions to be opt in. We further support increased transparency by requiring the opt out process be as easy to access as the original opt in process. (2024)
11. We support regulation of cryptocurrency mining. (2025)
12. We urge Congress to support net neutrality legislation focused on the Bright Line Rules, which are no censoring, no throttling, and no pay for priority of internet services. (2026)
13. We support legislation which requires all brick and mortar businesses be required to accept U.S. legal tender (cash) as payment without penalty or surcharge, subject to convenience, practicality, and safety as determined by appropriate authority. (2026)
14. We believe all real estate listings using Artificial Intelligence to modify

or enhance photographs be visibly watermarked or noted per picture as altered by AI. (2026)

Telephone Service

1. We believe interest from the Enhanced 911 account should remain within that account and oppose appropriation of this interest to the General Fund.
2. We support legislation to eliminate recorded message telemarketing and telephone solicitation.
3. We urge Congress to pass legislation that would require companies that use generated dialing systems to identify themselves when calling.
4. We support updates and improvements to the 911 system to allow for text messaging and other digital communications for emergency services. (2010)

Veterans Affairs

The Washington State Grange recognizes that veterans' issues are both important and necessary to promote and support the welfare of all U.S. Military veterans and dependents. We support the Veterans Administration (VA), the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), the American Legion, the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA), and other veterans service organizations in their efforts to improve the quality of life for our veterans.

1. We strongly encourage the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to give all qualified active service and honorably discharged military personnel a discount on hunting and fishing licenses. (2022)
2. We urge better and more efficient health care services for all veterans and qualified dependents. (2018)
3. We support the use of local medical facilities for the treatment of veterans with medical, mental, and substance abuse. (2019)
4. We strongly request Congress to enact legislation to repeal the inequitable offset between rightfully earned longevity military retired pay and VA disability compensation for all veterans. (2022)
5. We support the development of "tiny house" villages to house homeless veterans. (2020)
6. We believe the federal government should continue searching for information on Prisoners of War (POW) and Missing in Action (MIA) and open their files to immediate family members.

Welfare Reform

1. We support incentives, rather than penalties, for welfare recipients who are willing and able to work or perform community service. (2024)
2. We support childcare, food, and financial management courses offered through the Department of Social Health Services (DSHS) and urge that aid recipients undergo such training to maintain their existing welfare payments.



3. We favor issuing rental payment vouchers instead of cash payments to those in need of housing assistance to avoid mismanagement of these funds.
4. We urge all welfare recipients in this state to be required to meet the maximum residency requirement allowed under federal law.
5. We support implementation of a system by which related social service agencies can cross-check with others, in or out of state, to avoid duplicate assistance payments.
6. We support a Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) policy which does not allow for an automatic increase in aid for additional children conceived after the initial application for aid.

****

TAXATION

The Washington State Grange recognizes that taxation is both important and necessary to promote and support the welfare of our citizens; and to allow the fiscal operations of our state and local governments. We support a tax system that is designed to encourage the stimulation of economic activity and growth; entrepreneurship and increased job opportunity; and is both fairly administered and not overly burdensome on taxpayers.

Fuel and Road Tax

1. We support tax exemptions for special fuels (as defined in WAC 458-20-126). (2018)
2. We support the repeal of the Climate Commitment Act (CCA) and oppose any future carbon emission taxes. (2025)
3. We support continued research and development of road use assessments to determine the feasibility of transitioning to road use charges as the primary source of

funding of road and highway construction and maintenance. (2021)
4. We urge that a greater portion of fuel tax revenues be used for maintenance of our rural and farm-to-market roads to ensure proper support of the transportation of agricultural goods. (2020)
5. We support a road use tax for electric and hybrid vehicles. (2015)
6. We oppose a per mile tax on hydrocarbon burning motor vehicles until such a time that a comprehensive plan is put in place that would be equitable for all areas of the state, and addresses privacy issues. (2020)

Miscellaneous Taxes

1. We support sufficient taxation of alcohol and legal recreational drugs to pay for addiction treatment programs.
2. We recommend that latecomer fees be paid to the original developer and calculated the same as public latecomer fees.
3. We support the extension of the federal inheritance tax, with a reasonable inflation factor to be applied periodically to the exclusion amount. (2013)
4. We support an exclusion amount for the state estate tax that is the same as the exclusion amount for the federal inheritance tax. (2023)
5. We oppose a State Income Tax on the people of Washington State. (2025)
6. We urge the legislature to repeal the state capital gains tax. (2026)
7. We urge lawmakers to refrain from increasing fees simply to increase revenues. Instead, we believe the value of the service must be proportionate to the fees established. (2012)
8. We support a constitutional amendment to limit the authority of the State Legislature to impose new or increased taxes without either a two-thirds super-majority vote of both houses and the approval of the Governor or an affirmative vote of the people. (2013)
9. We support federal legislation to modify the IRS tax code so that taxpayers cannot get a federal tax refund that is greater than the amount paid during the tax year. If the taxpayer has a credit, it may be carried over to the following tax years. (2022)
10. We support legislation to create a federal tax exemption for the first $5,000 of income earned by agricultural students from projects completed in Grange, 4-H, FFA, and other youth organizations. (2022)
11. We oppose any vehicle miles traveled tax. (2025)
12. We oppose a "Wealth Tax". (2025)
13. **We support the elimination of the Personal Property Tax for agricultural producers in the State of Washington. (2026)**

Property Tax

1. We support valuing all property based on its current use as opposed to highest and best use valuation. (2019)
2. We oppose any increase in the property tax cap that would exceed the voter-approved amount of 1% per year. We support the use of the implicit price deflator (IPD) to define "inflation" as applied to property tax increases. (2024)
3. We support legislation that creates tax exemptions for real property held by fraternal organizations that provide financial support for charitable purposes and have been operating in Washington State for at least 100 years. (2023)
    a. To qualify for the exemption, the fraternal organization must also qualify for exemption from federal income tax under 501 (c) (5), 501 (c) (8), or 501 (c) (10) of the Internal Revenue Code; such federal exemptions apply to labor, agricultural or horticultural organizations; fraternal beneficiary societies, order, or associations operating under the lodge system, for the exclusive benefit of the members of the fraternity itself or operating under the lodge system and providing for the payment of life, sick, accident, or other benefits to the members of the society, order, or association or their dependents; and domestic fraternal societies, orders, religious, charitable, scientific, literary, educational and fraternal purposes.
    b. The exempted property must be used as a public assembly hall or meeting place of the fraternal organization.



4. We support property tax exemptions and deferral programs for senior citizens and the disabled.
5. We support excluding Social Security income to qualify for the senior or disabled person's property tax exemption. (2018)
6. We support stabilizing the tax revenue of junior taxing districts. Payments in lieu of taxes should be distributed to such districts in the same manner as taxes would be.
7. We support legislation requiring all agencies that administer public lands to make payment in lieu of taxes (PILT) equal to the tax payments that would otherwise be due to counties, cities, and local taxing districts. We further request the legislature to fully fund PILT payments from agencies. (2020)
8. We support legislation to update how PILT is calculated to ensure counties with high levels of public lands are not adversely affected by public lands. (2020)
9. We support open space, agricultural land, and designated forest land taxation laws. (2019) We support liberal application and interpretation of open space and current use taxation laws in favor of the landowner. (2011)
10. We ask that any government entity voting or proclaiming to waive rental payments to the landowners/ landlords be prevented from collecting any property taxes on the same parcels during the time that rental payments are waived. (2023)

11. We support legislation to remove the penalty when removing land from all open space designations if it has been in open space for a minimum of ten years. (2010)

Sales and Use Tax

1. We support the federal income tax deduction for sales taxes in states that do not impose a state income tax.
2. We believe the sales and use tax on a motor vehicle should be based on the actual sales price of the vehicle. (2021)
3. We oppose a sales tax on gasoline or other motor fuels for any purpose.
4. We support an exemption from state sales and use tax on farm and agricultural supplies, all off-highway fuels, including diesel, gasoline, alcohol, propane or natural gas, and farm machinery and equipment used in agricultural production, to include farmer-to-farmer sales. (2026)

Tax Levies & Mandates

1. We oppose all unfunded government mandates as they impose an unfair burden on taxpayers. (2026)
2. We support legislation requiring a super-majority on all voter approved tax levies.
3. We support legislation making taxation based upon employee count (head tax) and/or the amount of an employer's annual payroll illegal and/or unconstitutional in the State of Washington. (2025)

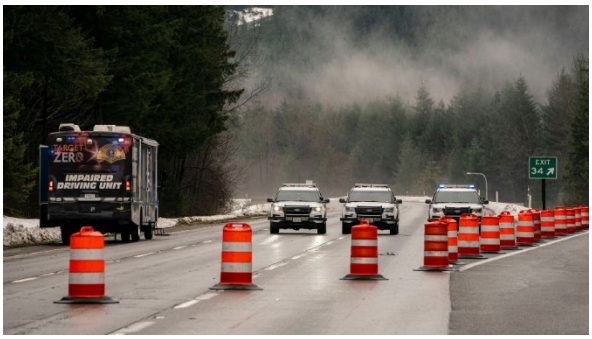
****

TRANSPORTATION

The Grange has been a traditional supporter of transportation facility development. Our focus is to ensure that the system is designed and operated to benefit all people who may need to use it. We recognize that citizens and our economy benefit from transportation infrastructure that is adequate, modern, and matches our mobility needs across the state.

Alternative Fuel

1. We support continuing study of alternative fuels.
2. We support the development of bio-fuel production within the State of Washington from agricultural products grown in the Northwest.
3. We support the continued production of biodiesel and ethanol in the U.S. (2019)
4. We oppose the use of corn as a primary source for biofuel. (2024)



5. We oppose a Washington State low carbon fuel standard until biofuel alternatives produced in the U.S. have been made available in a commercial marketplace and any cost increase to consumers is minimal. Any low carbon fuel standard should require a portion of biofuel stock to be purchased from Washington State producers. (2021)
6. We support legislation to repeal the 2030 Electric Vehicle mandate in the State of Washington. (2024)



Aviation

1. We support expanding the capacity of congested airports.
2. We support efforts to identify additional airport locations and alternatives to alleviate congested air transportation.
3. We support feeder rail lines in major airfreight hubs.
4. We support reasonable regulations in the operation of drones. (2021)

Environmental Regulation

1. We oppose legislation that would place more restrictions on beach driving in the State of Washington.

Funding

1. We support the retention of the 18th Amendment to the Washington State Constitution, which dedicates highway fund revenue for highway purposes including the ferry system.
2. We believe all motor vehicle excise taxes should be used for transportation purposes.
3. We propose federal regulations be relaxed or rescinded to allow individual states to determine priorities for expenditure of federal funds for safety, construction, and maintenance of state highways.

4. We believe tolls collected for roads, bridges and tunnels should be used where collected. (2014)

5. We oppose highway tolls as a source of general revenue in the State of Washington. (2021)

Licensing

1. We believe that RCW **46.20.1031** should be changed specifically to prevent the issuance of Washington State Drivers Licenses or Identification Cards in any form to any person without legal resident status. (2025)
2. We believe that RCW 46.20.181 should be changed to require that if non-citizen resident status is temporary, the Washington State Driver's License or Identification Card that is issued shall expire with the current visa or temporary resident status. (2010)
3. We support modification of RCW 46.16A.080 (2) where the licensing exemption for E-bikes (Electric-assisted bicycles) applies only to type 1 E-bikes (a pedal assist bicycle that only assists up to 20 mph) when traveling on public roadways or bike lanes. We further support licensing and insurance requirements for type 2 and 3 E-bikes. (2026)

Maintenance and Improvements

1. We encourage giving priority to safety upgrades on roadways with high accident rates. (2006)
2. We support increased research for developing better road materials, and improved methods of construction. (2019)
3. We support the improvement of state highways to a level that will support legal load limits year-round.
4. We support the prioritization of funding for farm-to-market roads. (2022)
5. We urge state and local agencies to eliminate the use of corrosive anti-icer and instead use alternate methods that are less harmful to highways and the environment. (2019)
6. We support the use of sand on ice and snow-covered roads where the sand is of a size that minimizes damage to vehicles and that has a minimum size greater than 10 microns.
7. We support coordination of the transportation system to improve freight mobility.
8. We support a systematic program to maintain, upgrade and replace bridges in a timely manner.
9. We support adequate roadside brush maintenance.
10. We encourage the State of Washington to install road signs at the entrances of all tunnels reminding drivers not to cross the center line; in the event of infraction, fines should be doubled. (2024)
11. We urge the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to prioritize the repairs and maintenance of the Fort Columbia Tunnel to improve motorist safety. (2020)



Marine Transportation

1. We oppose any drawdown of the Columbia River or its tributaries which would impede barge traffic, as barge traffic is one of the primary transportation modes for farm produce to get to the seaports.
2. We favor expansion of the Columbia River Transportation System by deepening and maintaining the federal navigation channel to 43 feet.
3. We ask that all ferry terminals have clean, well-lit restrooms available. (2012)
4. We recognize that all ferries in Washington State are an integral part of the State Highway System and are critical to commerce, national defense, and public transportation to both the state and the region. (2011)

Pipelines

1. We support fuel pipelines to facilitate safe, efficient, and cost-effective movement of petroleum products.

Public Safety

1. We support firm enforcement of driving under the influence laws.
2. We recommend standardizing seat belt buckle mechanisms. (2024)
3. We recommend crosswalk lights include visual and audible countdown timers where appropriate, to allow all individuals, including those with disabilities, to safely cross the street. (2021)
4. We oppose legislation which creates or supports rolling resistance regulation legislation. We further oppose legislation which creates regulations on tires for any purpose other than public safety. (2024)

Public Transportation

1. We support the development of economically feasible transportation systems that encourage people to use public transportation.

Rail

1. We support the retention and expansion of rail transportation

systems to relieve pressure on congested highways.
2. We oppose the abandonment of short lines where commodity production adds undue pressure on the highway.
3. We support legislation to maintain and improve the Chelatchie Prairie Railroad. (2021)
4. We support public ownership of vital rail transportation corridors and facilities that benefit farmers and farm communities. (2008)
5. We support the restoration of the rail connection between Colfax and Pullman. (2009)
6. We support any action to implement higher-speed train service (trains that can travel up to 110 mph) that would traverse the State of Washington from Portland, OR to Vancouver, BC, Canada. We further believe that should higher-speed rail be created between Portland and Seattle, a stop in Vancouver, WA be included. The State of Washington should actively pursue federal funding to create an efficient higher-speed rail service through the state. (2024)
7. We believe federal enforcement action be taken to force rail freight carriers to adhere to the law that has been in place since the Amtrak Act of 1973 which gives the right-of-way to passenger trains on shared railroad tracks. (2025)
8. We encourage the State of Washington to use a portion of the allocated **study** funds to include research of the estimated cost of creating a high-speed railroad track between Portland, OR and Seattle, WA as a first phase to start the transition from current passenger train travel to future passenger train travel on separate tracks. (2026)

Rest Areas

1. We encourage Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to consider placing new safety rest areas in the median between the directions of travel.
2. We request that WSDOT post permanent signs prior to highway exits near rest areas advertising free coffee. (2013)
3. We support the re-establishment of the free coffee program, which allows nonprofit organizations to provide free coffee and cookies to travelers on our state highways and oppose any efforts to privatize this program. (2024)
4. We recommend that established **safety rest areas with** high traffic volumes remain open all year and be maintained. (2026)
5. We urge WSDOT to provide adequate truck parking areas for long-haul truckers and that parking regulations in rest areas be enforced. (2026)

Road Safety

1. We oppose the use of triple trailer trucks on Washington highways.
2. We support automatic daytime low-beam headlights or their equivalent on all new motor vehicles.
3. We recommend that roadway markings on all public roads be inspected at least once per year. If markings are found to be deficient, restriping and reflector replacement be scheduled in a timely manner. (2026)
4. We believe that installation of rumble strips should be encouraged on all state routes in Washington and on all Interstate Highways nationwide. (2021)
5. We oppose roundabouts on SR 162 and instead develop alternative solutions to the congestion on SR 162 such as additional lanes. (2019)
6. We support legislation to include maneuvering roundabouts as part of both the knowledge and driving tests required to obtain a driver's license through the Washington State Department of Licensing (WSDOL). (2020)
8. We support legislation to end the use of red-light cameras in Washington State. (2019)

Safety - General

1. We encourage the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to approve the use of Adaptive Driving Beam (ADB), including the matrix system, vehicle headlight dimming system with its advanced use of LED lights to make driving safer on U.S. Highways. (2025)
2. We ask that Emergency Call Boxes be placed along Highway 20 in the zones where no cell service is available and that boxes be placed no more than five miles apart. (2018)

WASHINGTON STATE GRANGE

WSG President:
Tom Gwin
tagwin@wa-grange.org

Legislative Team:
Jesse Taylor
legislative@wa-grange.org
253-208-9071

Sophia Keller
skeller@wa-grange.org

924 Capitol Way South #300
PO Box 1186
Olympia, WA 98507

360-943-9911
800-854-1635
Fax: 360-357-3548

www.wa-grange.com
grange@wa-grange.org

In Essentials, Unity; In Non-Essentials, Liberty; In all Things, Charity