

WWUAS Local Lobby Day 2019
Agenda Items *Whatcom Co. Draft*****

Housing Affordability and Livability

ASWWU Urges Policymakers to:

- **Create a regulatory framework that incentivizes developers to build affordable units through Density Bonuses and Inclusionary Zoning practices requiring or incentivizing developers to build more in a certain area in exchange for affordable housing units for low-income residents and expedite development review and permitting for affordable housing units for low-income residents below 80% Area Median Income (AMI).**
- **Streamline the building permit process, waive fees, provide pre-approved building plans, and revise the county's general plan to cluster more density near suburban and urban areas to prevent Urban Sprawl and reduce infrastructure expanding and transportation costs.**

Equity and Inclusiveness

ASWWU Urges Policymakers to:

- **Secure funding for the proposed Whatcom County "Crisis Recovery Facility", to provide 32-beds for mental health and drug/alcohol treatment, removing the provision for "involuntary treatment."**

Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform

ASWWU Urges Policymakers to:

- **Provide comprehensive sentencing reform to reduce incarceration:** Including the expansion of Electronic Home Monitoring, reducing bail and pre-trial incarceration only in cases where an individual a danger to the community, and decriminalizing low-level offenses like non-serious property crime and non-violent drug offenses, prosecuting them as misdemeanors or implementing Drug-Offender Sentencing Alternatives (DOSAs) and First Time Offender Waivers. Model: Whatcom County Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Taskforce.
- **Develop a new Jail Replacement Measure that prioritizes construction of a safe, restorative facility prioritizing rehabilitative services and incarceration alternatives.**

- **Reject the Whatcom Sheriffs proposal to repeal Whatcom County Code 1.28, Standards for Correctional Facilities, instead creating a joint civilian sub-committee to oversee and replace WCC 1.28.**

Voting Accessibility

ASWWU Urges Policymakers to:

- **Pass a resolution in support of Statewide endeavors to implement Ranked-Choice Voting for all Municipal elections within the City of Bellingham, and implement upon passage, Model. Washington HB 1722 “Local Options Bill”**

Environmental Stewardship & Green Jobs

~~ASWWU recognizes the people of Whatcom County and our environment are interconnected; each depends on each other for long term success. As Whatcom County becomes more populated and our economy grows, we recommend innovative solutions for an economy that is compatible with our planet’s climate and health. We must transition off of fossil fuels to clean energy, creating new green living wage jobs, especially for new graduates. In addition, we must support policies that protect our prosperity depends on protecting safe and clean drinking water, farmland, salmon and the people who depend on them, and honoring the highest law of the land, treaties with tribal nations.~~

ASWWU Urges Policymakers to:

- **Continue the moratorium against future fossil fuel export projects indefinitely.**
~~With a new federal administration that has made removing environmental protections a priority, we need strong local protections for the people of Whatcom County. The safety of our rails, water, air, and climate can’t be compromised.~~
 - ~~○ We thank the County Council for their work on this issue so far and urge you to keep our community safe using local tools like the comprehensive plan and its subsequent land use regulations.~~
- **Reduce the number of housing units planned in rural areas** to prevent overdrawing aquifers connected to the river or needed for other uses like agriculture by supporting policies like Transfer of Development Rights (TDRs) and Purchase of Development Rights (PDRs). **Preserving farmland, protecting salmon and treaty rights, and improving water quality are all higher priorities than making money off of sprawling development.**