

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 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).**

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.
- **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:

- **Update Whatcom County Code, moving fossil fuel industries, like those at the Cherry Point Urban Growth Area, to “conditional use” from permitted use.** Endless moratoriums on the new and expanded facilities for the shipment of unrefined fossil fuels, should be seen as temporary and not the solution. Conditional use permits strengthen the County’s oversight in accountability assessments, shifting the “burden of proof” in permitting on the refineries and increasing the significance of public health, safety and environmental risks associated with refineries to Whatcom County members.
- **Reduce the number of housing units planned in rural areas** by adopting a Density Credit model, as per the recommendations of the Transfer of Development Rights/ Purchase of Development Rights Work Group. Adopt incentivized Interlocal agreements with the cities to ensure the countywide preservation of our agricultural and rural areas.
- **Approve the recommendations of the Lake Whatcom Stormwater Utility Advisory Committee** to implement an adequate stormwater rate fee structure, in accordance with that of the City of Bellingham, to provide the necessary funding to preserve and protect the water quality of Lake Whatcom and its watershed.