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**2018 Endorsement Questionnaire for State Legislative Candidates**

Washington Housing Alliance Action Fund supports candidates who champion public policy that prevents and ends homelessness and moves us toward a time when everyone in Washington has the opportunity to live in a safe, healthy, affordable home.

We will use responses to this questionnaire to determine endorsements as well as potential contributions and volunteer turnout. Answers may be shared with members and other affiliated parties and may also be used to educate voters.

*To be considered for a pre-primary endorsement, please complete and return this questionnaire in Word or PDF format to Teresa Clark at* *teresac@housingactionfund.org* *by Monday, June 4.*

Please take a moment to tell us a little more about your campaign:

**Campaign Contact Information**

Candidate Name:       Committee Name:

Legislative District:       Position:

Campaign Phone:       Campaign Website:

**Estimated Campaign Budget**

Primary:

General:

Raised to Date:

**Voter Contact**

What efforts will you make to reach out to communities of color, renters, and low-income constituents?

**Key Endorsements to date:**

**Summary Statement**
If we endorse your candidacy, we would like to provide a summary statement to our members in your district. Please provide a statement by answering the question below:

If elected, what will you do ensure that everyone in Washington has the opportunity to live in

a safe, healthy, affordable home? *(Please limit your response to 150 words or less.)*

**Resources for Developing Affordable Housing**

1. The state invests in affordable housing through the Housing Trust Fund (HTF). The state’s investment is highly leveraged by federal, local, and philanthropic sources. The majority of people living in homes supported by the Housing Trust Fund are extremely low-income (earning less than about $20,000 per year for a family of three) and the HTF is a key part of the solution to homelessness. The HTF also helps low-income households build assets for the future by providing funds for first-time homebuyers. The HTF creates homes for veterans, people with disabilities, seniors, homeless youth, farmworkers, families, and more.At its height in the 2007-2009 biennium, the Housing Trust Fund allocation was approximately $200 million. In the current 2017-2019 biennium the allocation is $107 million.
	1. **If elected, what will you do to ensure a significant allocation for the Housing Trust Fund in the capital budget?**
	Comments/How will you take leadership on this?
	2. **Would you advocate for funding for the HTF that would be allocated competitively and not subject to pre-determined project lists?****[ ]** Yes **[ ]** No

	Comments/How will you take leadership on this?
2. HB 2437, introduced in 2018, would have allowed local communities with a councilmanic vote to retain a percentage of the state sales tax to invest directly into local affordable housing needs or to bond against the revenue, if the local jurisdiction matched the state investment. If each jurisdiction enacted this option, it could have directed hundreds of millions of dollars to safe, healthy, permanently affordable housing. **Would you support a similar bill in 2019?

[ ]** Yes **[ ]** No

Comments/How will you take leadership on this?
3. In 2015, the state legislature passed HB 2263 which allows local jurisdictions to put a proposal on the ballot to increase the sales tax up to .1% for investments in mental health facilities and affordable housing. **Would you support legislation that would allow jurisdictions across the state to pass this local option with a simple majority, councilmanic vote?

[ ]** Yes **[ ]** No

Comments/How will you take leadership on this?

**Tenant Protections**

1. Regional and national studies reveal that evictions lead to homelessness, both directly and indirectly. **Would you support legislation to strengthen renter protections such as a right to legal counsel and improvements to the residential landlord tenant act to prevent people from losing their home?

[ ]** Yes **[ ]** No

Comments/How will you take leadership on this?
2. Current law allows landlords to terminate tenancy with a mere 20-day notice, and the landlord is not required to tell the tenant why they are telling them to move. **Do you support providing tenants with a "just cause notice of termination" in which a landlord would have to give a just reason and provide tenants more than 20 days notice when the termination is based circumstances where the landlord holds advance knowledge (such as in the sale of the property or a change of use of the property)?

[ ]** Yes **[ ]** No

Comments/How will you take leadership on this?
3. People of color and people experiencing homelessness disproportionately hold criminal records due to a number of factors including racially biased law enforcement and laws that criminalize homelessness. Criminal records remain a significant barrier to housing, causing communities of color to experience high rates of homelessness. **Would you support legislation to prevent unfair bias in housing against people with arrest and conviction records?

[ ]** Yes **[ ]** No

Comments/How will you take leadership on this?

**Safety Net Services and Resources for Low-Income People**

1. Safety net programs such as the Aged, Blind & Disabled cash assistance, TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), HEN (Housing & Essential Needs) and other programs that meet the basic needs of low-income people are critical in preventing and ending homelessness. **What actions will you take to protect these programs from budget cuts?**Comments/How will you take leadership on this?
2. Work requirements for safety net and housing programs are being proposed at the federal level. **Would you oppose such requirements being added to state funded safety net and housing programs?

[ ]** Yes **[ ]** No

Comments/How will you take leadership on this?
3. The Housing and Essential Needs rental assistance program ensures that extremely low-income, disabled adults at risk of homelessness have modest resources to help pay rent in the private market. The program hasn't been increased since its inception in 2011, yet homelessness has risen across the state, and most counties are forced to turn people away who are in need of assistance. **Would you support an Operating Budget increase to this program?

[ ]** Yes **[ ]** No

Comments/How will you take leadership on this?
4. **Would you support funding targeted tax rebate programs for low-income people, like the Working Families Tax Rebate?

[ ]** Yes **[ ]** No

Comments/How will you take leadership on this?

**Racial Equity and Civil Rights**

1. Across the country, cities have responded to the growing homelessness crisis by criminalizing behaviors like sitting, lying, or sleeping in public spaces. Criminalization ordinances have a negative impact on physical and mental health, increase the likelihood that someone will remain trapped in the cycle of homelessness, and do nothing to address causes of homelessness. Furthermore, these policies have a disproportionate impact on people of color, people with disabilities, domestic violence survivors, LGBTQ+ people, and veterans. **What do you think is the role of state government in addressing the criminalization of homelessness?**

Comments/How will you take leadership on this?
2. The Keep Washington Working Act, SB 5689/HB 1985, would establish protections for immigrants to ensure they can interact with state and local government and their local schools without fear. Immigrants at risk of homelessness shouldn’t fear being detained and deported when seeking assistance for themselves and their family. Among other things the bill would: (1) Require the Attorney General to publish model policies for limiting immigration enforcement to the fullest extent possible consistent with federal and state law at public schools, state operated health facilities, courthouses, and shelters to ensure they remain safe and accessible to all Washington residents, regardless of immigration or citizenship status; and (2) restrict state agencies or departments from using funds or resources to investigate or assist in the enforcement of any registration or surveillance programs that target Washington residents solely on the basis of a protected class, or immigration or citizenship status. **Do you support this legislation?

[ ]** Yes **[ ]** No

Comments/How will you take leadership on this?