



# 2018 Legislative candidate survey

Candidate name:	Christopher Tracy	Legislative district:	8		
You are a candidate	e <b>for:</b> House of Representatives Ω	Senate			
If you are a candida which position are	ate for the House of Representatives, your running for?	Position 1 Position 2			
Local government background  Have you ever been elected or appointed to a local government position, Yes X or served on a local government board, committee, or as staff? Local governments include cities, counties, public utility districts, school districts, fire protection districts, port districts, and more.					
If yes, in what capacity Enter text here	?				
4. Ctata abawad l					
increase fees on servion have been restored. H	nters fiscal problems, legislators often ta ces provided to cities to fill the state's bu owever, during the last recession, the Le and other local government cost drivers re	udget deficit. Recently, some egislature enacted cuts and	e shared revenues diversions, while		
<ul> <li>Changes in liquor to supported essential.</li> <li>Sweeping and divergive from the nationally operating; and</li> </ul>	ax and profit distributions resulting in losal local services, such as public safety; erting over \$1 billion in local utility taxes, acclaimed Public Works Trust Fund (Pupay training fees for officers attending the	real estate taxes, and proje NTF) that helps keep local i	ect loan repayments infrastructure		

Oppose

Χ

Support

Do you support or oppose the Legislature continuing to use

locally-shared revenues or revenues intended for capital

projects in order to balance the state's operating budget?

Briefly describe one or more actions that you would take to ensure your views on these issues are accounted for by your caucus and in a final budget.

Revenue that is expected to help cities should not be diverted for other projects. The legislature needs to carefully review and close some corporate tax breaks and loopholes and that will generate more dollars that can go towards the state's operating budget.

#### 2. Basic infrastructure financing

Cities face many challenges when repairing and updating critical infrastructure such as drinking water and sewer systems. Historically, the Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF), a revolving loan fund, was a significant source for financing infrastructure. As the state wrestled first with a recession and then with the *McCleary* education funding challenges, legislators repeatedly turned to diverting these funds and leaving nothing in their place. Since 2013, nearly all of the tax revenues deposited into the PWTF were diverted to the state's education funding account instead. Those revenues were scheduled to come back to the PWTF in 2019, but the revenue diversions were extended another four years.

Would you support or oppose a budget that diverted more resources from the PWTF to address state general fund obligations?			Oppose X
Do you believe that it is part of the state's obligation to help fund critical local infrastructure, especially when taxes and fees raised to do so in 1985 continue to be levied?	Yes X	No	

As a lawmaker, how will you work to secure the revitalization of the PWTF and protect it from future raids?

We need to try to develop more reliable funding for the state budget. While funding education is the priority for our state government, as I mentioned in the question above, closing some of the corporate tax breaks and loopholes will help fund our state budget and allow the use of the PWTF for its intended uses.

### 3. Homelessness, affordable housing, and mental health

Across the state, housing costs are rising and affordability issues are impacting homebuyers and renters, as well as exacerbating the already critical homelessness problems in many communities. Mental health services are stretched thin and cities (not normally in the business of providing these particular social services) find themselves increasingly trying to help residents and keep their communities safe and secure. Cities have a strong desire to work together with the state, counties, business, nonprofit, and faith communities to help address these challenges. We continue to seek financing, regulatory, and funding tools to help.

#### Which of the following are priorities for you? Choose all that apply.

- X Help to end homelessness
- X Ensure adequate mental health services for those in need
- X Provide tools to help control the spiraling cost of housing

Would you support or oppose a proposal for the state to override loca or density decisions to promote more affordability in housing constructions.		Support See below	Oppose			
Please elaborate on what you suggest doing to address one or more of	these issue	s:				
My wheelhouse includes being on the Health/Benefits Committee for the Northshore School District for over 25 years (that included providing parity for mental health coverage) and, through my work as president of my church council, working toward the goals of transferring much of the church property into housing for very low income seniors and veterans in partnership with the Compass Housing Alliance. I strongly advocate government working with nonprofits for greater housing opportunities and, specifically, targeting working with churches that sometimes have unused or underused property and government and nonprofits can work with them to redevelop the property to promote additional affordable housing (and right-sized spaces for the churches.)						
We need to continue to bring cities, counties, and the state we can approach all of these difficult issues together.						
Generally, I support city and counties for local zoning decisions and any need significant input from cities and counties affected.  Enter text here	y change by	the state	would			
<b>4. Economic development</b> Economic development opportunities vary greatly across the state. Some communities have deteriorating commercial or industrial areas or lack the needed infrastructure for critical development, and others lack access to adequate broadband services. AWC supports expansion of current programs and funding, including expansion of state Local Revitalization Financing (LRF) and Local Infrastructure Financing Tool (LIFT) programs as options to incentivize economic development and support job creation.						
Would you support or oppose legislation that expands the financing options available to local governments for economic development?	Support X	Oppose				

What other ideas do you have for bolstering the state's economic development opportunities?

I am a proponent of dramatically reducing tuition for technical, community colleges and public universities. Apprenticeship programs should be expanded, as well. These actions will help build a diverse workforce. Funding needed infrastructure will not only create jobs in the short-term, but provide an environment for long-term employment growth.

#### 5. Local control

Cities succeed when they can respond to local residents' unique needs and desired outcomes through exercising local control. The State Constitution and state statutes provide cities with wide discretion in serving their communities. However, the Legislature sometimes considers preempting cities from enacting local ordinances or engaging in certain activities. We believe that the relationship between the state and cities functions best as a partnership, where the state gives careful consideration to the varied conditions of local governments, and appreciates the importance of retaining local flexibility.

Do you believe that local control is important to ensuring responsive local government?	Yes X	No
If you disagree that local control should be		If you agree that local control sh

preserved, please describe one or more specific issue areas or situations in which the state should preempt local control.

If you agree that local control should be respected, please describe how you would argue for the protection of local control to colleagues who want to preempt local governments.

I will work with colleagues to promote local control. I have a great deal of experience negotiating (Board-Union contracts, etc.) and will utilize my experience bringing people together to achieve goals.

OR

If you have any questions, please contact Regina Adams, AWC Government Relations Coordinator, at 360-753-4137 or <a href="ReginaA@awcnet.org">ReginaA@awcnet.org</a>. Please return your survey by the end of the day on Wednesday, July 4 by:

- Email to ReginaA@awcnet.org;
- Fax to (360) 753-0149; or
- U.S. mail to AWC Candidate Survey, 1076 Franklin Street SE, Olympia, WA 98501-1346.

## Thank you for your participation!