



2018 Legislative candidate survey

Candidate name: Anneliese Feld Legislative district: 2

You are a candidate for: House of Representatives Senate

If you are a candidate for the House of Representatives, which position are your running for? Position 1 Position 2

Local government background

Have you ever been elected or appointed to a local government position, 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.* Yes No

If yes, in what capacity?

I was a legislative intern to the House Chair and Vice Chair of the Ways and Means Committee in 2012, then Representatives Ross Hunter and Jeannie Darnielle.

1. State-shared local revenues

When the state encounters fiscal problems, legislators often take revenues historically shared with cities, or increase fees on services provided to cities to fill the state's budget deficit. Recently, some shared revenues have been restored. However, during the last recession, the Legislature enacted cuts and diversions, while unfunded mandates and other local government cost drivers remained unaddressed, including the following items:

- Changes in liquor tax and profit distributions resulting in losses of nearly \$200 million in funds that supported essential local services, such as public safety;
- Sweeping and diverting over \$1 billion in local utility taxes, real estate taxes, and project loan repayments from the nationally-acclaimed Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF) that helps keep local infrastructure operating; and
- Requiring cities to pay training fees for officers attending the Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA).

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? Support Oppose

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.

At a minimum, we need to close tax loopholes utilized by wealthy corporations. We also need to address spending that does not produce expected results. Criminal justice reform is just one potential area that could provide the state with huge cost savings.

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? Support Oppose

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 No

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

Having lived in the Midwest for 5 years, and earning my Master's in Public Health, I understand how devastating it can be when safe drinking water is simply not available to entire cities. As a representative, I will be a champion for these issues and remind all of my colleagues of the duty to ensure basic necessities are available to all. Similarly, I would utilize my position to educate the public on the issue, and ask for everyone's help to put pressure on their own representatives to protect our drinking water and sewer systems; these are public health issues.

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.

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

Would you support or oppose a proposal for the state to override local zoning or density decisions to promote more affordability in housing construction? Support Oppose

Please elaborate on what you suggest doing to address one or more of these issues:

This question deserves a dissertation, but I will provide a brief answer now, however, this is my area of expertise and I welcome a further discussion on any of these issues. Housing, employment, mental health, physical health, education, drug addiction, and criminal justice all intersect on these issues, and until we acknowledge the complexity of these issues we will never solve them. Thankfully, across the country and the world, there are an abundance of examples of what does work. There is no one factor for homelessness, so providing one solution makes no sense; homeless families have different needs than families fleeing domestic violence situations, and different needs than homeless veterans or those struggling with mental health or drug addiction. Often, we are quick to jail those with mental health or drug addiction, however this prolongs the issue. Instead, we need to provide rapid response to treatment, and then supportive wrap around services to provide immediate housing and employment opportunities. Some cities

for their own populations. Doing anything other than this would be like making podiatrists check the health of your arms before looking at your ankles or feet, it just doesn't make sense.

If you have any questions, please contact Regina Adams, AWC Government Relations Coordinator, at 360-753-4137 or ReginaA@awcnet.org. 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!