WASHINGTON VOTING JUSTICE COALITION LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

01

UPGRADING AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION

Our democracy is at its best when every Washingtonian, regardless of race or income, has our voice heard and our vote counted. However, there are still almost one million eligible Washingtonians who are not registered to vote, and people of color and low-income people still face registration barriers. We successfully fought for automatic voter registration in 2018, and now it's time to improve our system and ensure that as many voters as possible are ready to make their voices heard in the years to come. If we upgrade our automatic voter registration system...



- More voters would be registered automatically, including people left out by traditional methods.
- Washingtonians who are not citizens would be automatically filtered out, preventing people from accidentally registering when they are not eligible.
- The state would save time and money because more voters would be registered automatically instead of through paper forms.

02

REMOVING ADVISORY VOTES FROM OUR BALLOTS

Voting should be a simple, accessible way for all of us to make a real difference in our communities. However, the advisory votes that clutter up our ballots every year have no power to change our laws, and they continue to create confusion and apathy amongst Washington voters. If we remove advisory votes from our ballots...



- It would be easier for all voters to understand and fill out our ballots, especially new voters and voters who speak English as a second language
- All voters would save time wasted researching votes that have no impact on our laws.
- Taxpayers and elections officials would save time, money, and administrative resources wasted printing and tallying these non-binding votes.

03

RANKED CHOICE VOTING FOR PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES

No matter which values our communities hold most dear, we all want to elect a president who shares those values. But because of our current primary election system, many are afraid to vote their conscience, thousands of votes are wasted on candidates who drop out, and the final candidates may not represent the values of the majority of their citizens. If we allow voters to rank their choices in the presidential primary...



- All voters could vote sincerely for their true values, without having to consider who has the highest chance of winning
- If a voter votes early for a candidate who drops out of the race before primary election day, their vote will not be wasted
- Candidates would be incentivized to run inclusive campaigns that respond to the needs of a wide variety of voters, instead of a narrow base

04

MAKING ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION ACCESSIBLE TO PEOPLE WITHOUT WA DRIVER'S LICENSES

We pride ourselves in Washington on how simple it is to become a voter, whatever your age, income, or background. However, if you don't have a WA driver's license, you cannot register to vote online. It's time we updated our system so that all new voters can register from the convenience of their own home. If we update our online voter registration to remove the driver's license requirement...



- Our voter registration process would be more accessible to young voters, Black and Latino voters, lower-income voters, voters who recently became citizens or Washington residents, and others who are less likely to have a Washington driver's license
- Our state would have more regularly updated signatures from voters, reducing the amount of people who have their ballots rejected
- We'd have a modernized system that would better serve today's voters and future generations of voters

05

ENSURING ACCESS FOR VOTERS IN JAILS

We believe every citizen should have an equal opportunity to vote, no matter their race, income, or circumstances. However, staff in jails and our county elections administrators have historically neglected education and ballot access for people in our jails. As a result, the people who are most impacted by our systems are locked out of a say in the decisions that affect their lives. If we provide support to ensure that people in jail can vote...



- We can create a more robust and healthy democracy that encourages participation from all voters, especially BIPOC and lower-income voters that are targeted by our criminal legal system.
- We can improve outcomes for people in jail and their neighborhoods. Voting gives people a sense of belonging and responsibility for the community, setting them up for success when they return home.

06

STRENGTHENING THE WASHINGTON VOTING RIGHTS ACT

Whether we are Black, brown, or white, voters should all have an equal opportunity to exercise our freedom to vote and see ourselves represented in our government. When local governments create voting barriers for communities of color, communities should feel empowered to challenge oppressive laws and systems through the Washington Voting Rights Act. If we strengthen the Washington Voting Rights Act...



• Communities of color would be able to quickly and affordably seek justice against discriminatory election practices, with the state paying for some of the huge costs of a lawsuit.

