



YWCA 2021 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

YWCA is on a mission to eliminate racism and empower women. We advocate on public policy and budget matters move us closer to becoming a just and thriving community.

Lead Legislative Priorities

Increase Revenue to Protect Essential Services

We continue to urge legislators to focus on changes to our revenue system that will rebuild the economy to work for everyone. We support a balanced approach that includes generating policies that eliminate race and gender disparities and increase sustainable investment to protect essential safety net programs. We must protect against any cuts to affordable housing, homelessness and related human services programs by passing significant new progressive revenue.

End Homelessness and Increase Access to Affordable Housing

Housing Trust Fund

Invest \$200 million for the Housing Trust Fund and an additional \$10 million for preservation of affordable housing (USDA and other properties at risk of loss) from the Capital Budget. The HTF funding could include a separate fund for rapid acquisition of properties for sale to convert to affordable housing and/or tenant owned housing.

Just Cause Eviction

Pass statewide protections against discriminatory and arbitrary evictions. Require cause for termination of tenancy. This would require a landlord to have a legitimate business reason to make someone move. Just Cause Eviction is imperative to keeping people in their homes, which is less costly than trying to get people back into housing and disproportionately affects people of color and low income communities.

Build Economic Security for Washington Women and Families

Secure Scheduling

Secure scheduling addresses the crisis of unstable and unpredictable hours. Secure scheduling ensures that people who work at fast food, retail and restaurants know when they are going to work and how many hours they are going to get by providing several new rights. For example, two weeks' notice of schedule, predictability pay if employer adds, cuts or changes scheduled shifts.



Support Legislative Priorities

Build Economic Security for Washington Women and Families

Working Families Tax Credit

Working Families Tax Credit allows low-income and middle-income workers to recover some or all of the sales tax they pay as a way to increase their economic security. The goal is to increase economic security for low and middle income workers and decrease the regressivity of the state tax code.

Reduce Barriers for YWCA Program Participants/Safety

Pass the Sentencing Reform Act

The Sentencing Reform Act creates a community review board within the office of the Governor to review incarcerated offenders for possible early release after twenty years of confinement. Permits an offender, convicted of and incarcerated for one or more crimes, to petition the community review board for early release after serving at least twenty years of total confinement.

Restoration of Voting Rights

Automatic restoration of voting rights for persons with a felony conviction when no longer incarcerated (currently they must have completed community supervision as well). Allows any person who is no longer confined in a Department of Corrections facility to register to vote. Given the disproportionality of Black people, BIPOC and other marginalized populations, many of whom are low income, the need to ensure that their voices are heard during the election process is imperative.

Driving a Motor Vehicle with Suspended or Revoked License

Decriminalize the charge of third degree driving with a suspended license, a misdemeanor (DWLS3). Under current state law, those caught driving with a suspended license due to unpaid traffic tickets or because they didn't show up for court hearings, can be jailed. The bill would help people work out a method of payment, and would be a major help to low-income persons who get caught in a downward spiral because of failure to pay off fines. Fines and the possibility of jail time under the current law criminalize poverty and hurts women and communities of color.