



Resolution Calling for Governor Bob Ferguson to Support a Wealth Tax in Washington State

WHEREAS, the State of Washington has the [second most regressive tax code in the country](#)¹ meaning that low-income residents pay a larger portion of their incomes on taxes than higher income residents; and

WHEREAS, the State of Washington is facing a [\\$10-12 billion dollar budget deficit](#)² over the next four years; and

WHEREAS, it is the paramount duty of the State to amply fund public education for all of its students, and the [State is currently not fully funding our public schools](#)³, particularly for [students who need additional support](#)⁴; and

WHEREAS, the President and his administration are currently engaged in an illegal and unconstitutional campaign of impoundment of funds levied and disbursed by Congress for the general welfare of the American people and specifically the people of the State of Washington, particularly [in relation to public education](#)⁵; and

WHEREAS, Republicans in Congress are developing a tax plan that gives smaller tax cuts to most Americans [while increasing tax cuts for the rich, and raising costs for healthcare, housing, energy, and education](#)⁶; and

WHEREAS, the livelihoods, health, and security of the people of the State of Washington depend on the around \$25 billion dollars of taxes levied and disbursed by Acts of Congress annually, [including \\$2.7 billion dollars for public education](#)⁷, and those funds are in jeopardy; and

WHEREAS, [Governor Bob Ferguson has stated publicly that he opposes a wealth tax](#)⁸; and

WHEREAS, the people of the State of Washington have shown their support for progressive taxation of rich individuals, particularly to fund public education, through the [defeat of Initiative 2109 where 64% of voting residents supported maintaining a capital gains tax](#)⁹;

¹ Washington no longer has most regressive tax structure in the nation, *Economic Opportunity Institute*

² Budget Reductions for Fiscal Year 2025 and 2025-27 Biennium, *Office of Financial Management*

³ Reykdal says Washington risks lawsuit if school funding isn't hiked, *Washington State Standard*

⁴ Fully Funding Special Education Services, *Washington Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction*

⁵ Trump Advisers Weigh Plan to Dismantle Education Department, *The Wall Street Journal*

⁶ 4 Ways House Republicans' Emerging Tax Package Would Put Billionaires Over Families, *Center for American Progress*

⁷ *USA Facts* (via the *National Center for Education Statistics*)

⁸ Ferguson opposes wealth tax, calls for spending cuts, but boost for K-12, *The Seattle Times*

⁹ November 5, 2024 General Election Results, *Washington Secretary of State*

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the 43rd LD Democrats call on Governor Bob Ferguson to wholeheartedly *offer his public endorsement of a wealth tax in Washington State*; and

BE IT THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVED that the 43rd LD Democrats call on all the 43rd LD Legislators to endorse [HB 1319](#)¹⁰ enacting a wealth tax in Washington State; and

BE IT THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be sent to Governor Bob Ferguson, to all the 43rd LD Legislators, and to the media, and that every resident of the 43rd LD is exhorted to advocate for the wealth tax by contacting the Governor's office via phone at 360-902-4111 or online form at <https://governor.wa.gov/contacting-governor>, and contacting our legislators at <https://leg.wa.gov/help/contact-us/>.

BE IT THEREFORE FINALLY RESOLVED that the Secretary of the 43rd LD Democrats report back on the response from the aforementioned recipients of this resolution at the 43rd LD Democrats General Meeting immediately following its adoption.

Submitted by Chase Cross, Paul Chapman, and Ryan Driscoll (Chair, 43rd LD) to the February 18, 2025 General Meeting of the 43rd LD Democrats.

Adopted by the 43rd LD Democrats at the February 18, 2025 General Meeting.

¹⁰ HB 1319, *Washington State Legislature*