

Ways you can leap into action!

SUBSCRIBE! Our free Legislative Alerts will keep you up to date on what's happening in Olympia and alert you when we need your help on important legislation. A note or a quick call from you to your legislators can have substantial impact. To subscribe, go to <https://quakervoicewa.org/sign-up/> and fill out the form.

JOIN one of the 3 working groups

(criminal justice, environmental stewardship, and economic justice). Bring your concerns. We need Friends who care deeply, can become knowledgeable about a state or local issue, and are willing to champion it. Our Legislative Advocate can work with you and provide support and legislative expertise. (For our priorities, see <http://quakervoicewa.org>.)

BRING OUR WITNESS & CONCERNS into the life of your Meeting.

DONATE: Your contribution supports our part-time paid Legislative Advocate, whose efforts give us a recognized presence and voice in the capitol and increases the effectiveness of our volunteer lobbyists.

Contributions* may be made online at <http://quakervoicewa.org> or sent to PO Box 452, Olympia WA 98507.


* *Quaker Voice on Washington Public Policy* is not for profit, but because it is a lobbying organization contributions are NOT deductible for federal tax purposes.

Please hold the work of
Quaker Voice in the Light!



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Bringing the Quaker voice,
guided by testimonies and
spiritual devotion, to the
formation of public policy in
Washington state.



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<https://quakervoicewa.org>

Since 1997, Quaker Voice on Washington Public Policy (Quaker Voice) has worked effectively for social justice in the state of Washington.

In the centuries-old Quaker tradition of leading the struggle for human and civil rights, Quaker Voice focuses on issues that are not sufficiently addressed by other organizations in the areas of criminal justice, economic justice and local involvement in global environmental challenges

We focus research on these issues and educate Friends, legislators, allies, and the public about them. We lobby in Olympia and provide Friends throughout the state with timely information on legislation and legislative actions and issues.

Among the results of our efforts:

- Establishment of an independent corrections ombuds
- Restoration of voting rights after prison
- Reform of financial liabilities for people released from prison, helping them remake their lives
- First state in the nation to guarantee legal counsel in the eviction process
- Capital gains tax, a step towards equitable revenue
- Environmental stewardship legislation to transition to carbon-free electrical generation, energy efficiency upgrades for buildings, and reducing food waste
- Instrumental in establishing an independent corrections ombuds office, restoration of voting rights, and reform of financial liability for persons released from prison.

Our Legislative Focus

Criminal Justice

Washington State's prison population is nearly 20,000 people. Of these, a highly disproportionate number are people of color. Quaker Voice works to reduce those numbers by:

- Addressing racial and economic inequity in the criminal justice system
- Supporting bail and sentencing reform, post-conviction review, educational opportunities for persons in prison, and earned release time
- Abolishing the death penalty
- Restoring voting rights to persons in the prison system, supporting gun responsibility, police accountability, and reform of license suspension

Helping persons released from prison become independent, responsible citizens increases public safety, saves money, and acknowledges that of God in each person.

Environmental Stewardship

Quaker Voice supports:

- Action to **address climate change**
- Protections for **health and environment** including **environmental justice**
- Investment in restoring salmon, improving habitat, **to protect orcas and other wildlife**

Economic Justice

Housing and Human Services

In housing, Quaker Voice is working to even the playing field between renters and landlords and expand affordable housing options in the state. Full funding for safety net programs for the most marginalized among us continues to be a priority, along with exploring basic income options and updating standards of need.

Tax Equity

Washington's regressive tax structure is a major hurdle to economic justice in our state. Narrowly based on a sales tax with no income tax, families with lower incomes pay a far higher percent of their incomes on taxes than do families with high incomes. Quaker Voice seeks to create a tax structure that is fair, adequate, and stable.



Other Issues of Concern to Friends

We support the efforts of individual Friends and Meetings to advocate on issues that reflect Friends testimonies, including peace, civil liberties, LGBTQ and Native American rights, and other concerns. We have supported advocacy at local and state levels, working with legislators and administrators.