

Quaker Voice —

on Washington Public Policy

Since 1997, the 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 such as criminal justice, that are not sufficiently addressed by other organizations, along with economic justice and local responses to global 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**
- Reform of **Legal Financial Obligations**, helping persons released from prison remake their lives
- **Restorative justice** legislation for juveniles and protection from publication of youthful offenses
- Environmental stewardship legislation to transition to **carbon-free** electrical generation, **energy efficiency** upgrades for buildings, and **reducing food waste**
- Restoration of the **right to vote** for former prisoners no longer under the supervision of the Dept. of Corrections

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Our legislative focus

Criminal Justice

Washington State's prison population is nearly 20,000 people, triple what it was 20 years ago. Of these, a disproportionate number are people of color. The recidivism rate, those who re-offend after release, has been growing.

Quaker Voice is working diligently to reduce those numbers by:

- Supporting a **Post-conviction Review Board** and **educational opportunities** for prisoners
- Abolishing the **death penalty**
- Restoring the voting rights for persons under community supervision, reforming the **bail bond** system, supporting **gun responsibility**, **police accountability**, and reform of **license suspension**
- Addressing the **root causes of crime**, including poverty and institutional racism.

Helping former prisoners become independent, responsible citizens increases public safety, saves money needed for other worthy purposes, and acknowledges that of God in each person.

Environmental Stewardship

Quaker Voice supports:

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

Economic Justice

• **Human Services**

Quaker Voice seeks full funding for safety net programs for the most marginalized among us -- such as Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (**TANF**), Housing and Essential Needs (**HENs**), Assistance to Blind and Disabled persons (**ABD**), and the **Housing Trust Fund** -- and increased funding for mental health and drug treatment.

• **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 within our policy guidelines, including peace, civil liberties, environmental issues, Native American rights, and other concerns. We have supported advocacy at local and state levels, working with legislators and administrators.

3 ways to leap into action!

1. 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 www.QuakerVoiceWA.org and click on *Sign Up!* To receive alerts by postal mail write to **Quaker Voice, Box 452, Olympia, WA 98507.**

2. DONATE: Your contribution supports our part-time paid Legislative Advocate and Policy Analyst, whose efforts give us a recognized presence and voice in the capitol and increase the effectiveness of our volunteer lobbyists. Contributions* may be made online at www.QuakerVoiceWA.org, or sent to PO Box 452, Olympia WA 98507.

3. JOIN one of the 3 working groups (on 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 and legislative action team can work with you and provide support and legislative expertise. (For our policy guidelines, see www.QuakerVoiceWA.org.)

* [QuakerVoiceWA.org](http://www.QuakerVoiceWA.org) is not for profit. Because it is a lobbying organization, contributions are NOT deductible for federal tax purposes.

Remember to hold the work of Quaker Voice in the Light!



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Quaker Voice on Washington Public Policy

Bring our witness and
concerns into the life of
your meeting.



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