

Jim Vaughn - District 2, Senator

1. Do you have a personal connection or professional experience with someone who has a developmental disability?

I have a staffing service that focuses on assisting veterans with employment. Major category is assisting the disabled veterans with employment. Working with Congressman Dave Reichert on a program to help seriously disabled veterans. With today's technology - internet, there is no reason they cannot have a meaningful and productive life working from a home office.

2. What are your top three legislative priorities?

- Top priority is jobs. We need people to go to work and pay taxes in order to fund various government programs. To create jobs, we need to replace the B&O Tax and with a flat rate corporate tax. This allows companies to deduct capital investments. For example, if company A owes \$100K in business taxes, they could buy a piece of equipment for \$50K that will make them a profit and reduce their tax burden by \$50K. Once they buy the equipment, they have to pay someone to operate and maintain it. This equates to jobs. Now the company has to buy raw material so the machine can make an end product and the raw materials have to be delivered to the company. More Jobs
- 2nd priority is healthcare. 50% of our citizens are employed by small businesses, who cannot afford healthcare. My intention is to submit a bill that will require every working person that does not have private healthcare insurance or medical insurance through their company to pay into a state system for themselves and their families. By doing this we have healthcare for the entire workforce. Since half of the people in our state are employed we have 50% with insurance. The remainder are children under 18 (not too expensive in regards to medical costs), those that are retired (on Medicare) and the remainder that are unemployed for various reasons.
- 3rd is to streamline the state government. I did my graduate studies in Operations Research and System Analysis via the US Army. I was then assigned to the Studies Directorate at TRADOC Analysis Command. After the first Gulf War, the Army experienced significant budget cuts due to the recession and budget deficit. My job was to prioritize all Army programs, \$300 billion dollars. (Note: this is larger than our state budget.) As a result, I worked with Senior Officers at the Pentagon and members of Congress. My analysis created a prioritized list of expenditures allowing the Pentagon to determine which programs to fund during a period of downsizing. I am the only candidate that has the knowledge and experience to prioritize our budget in order to keep the essential services without raising taxes.

3. What area of expertise, experience or personal interest will you bring to office?

See above

4. We have faced continual budget deficits for the last few years. What solutions do you have for ensuring that people with disabilities are able to get the services they need?

See above.

5. If you were to reduce spending or face a revenue shortfall, what specifically would you seek to cut from state government?

I wrote the following initiative that I plan to submit as a bill upon being elected. The following link will give you an idea of what why I propose to do this. Note the pictures are rather graphic.

<http://archive.cooperpointjournal.com/campus-life/porn-week-heats-evergreen>

Cease to Fund Higher Education Freak Shows at Evergreen State College

The only state college in Washington, Evergreen State College, will cease to operate as a state college at the end of the school year 2011-2012. Upon approval by the electorate, state funding will cease at the end of the school year in 2012. The legislature will place all assets up for sale and the revenue will be used to offset the budget deficit.

(1) Whereas, the RCW 28B40.100 the governor is responsible to appoint the Board of Trustees for Evergreen State College and the lack of oversight by the Board of Trustees and the Governor , along with the poor lack of judgment have resulted in abuse of taxpayer dollars.

(2) Whereas taxpayers are supportive of liberal art studies, we will no longer tolerate that our state funded institution hosted a porn week and has a history of bizarre behavior such as a course curriculum in queer studies. As a result, we are of the opinion that the Board of Trustees and Governor use Evergreen State College for the purpose of nurturing political support from the extreme left at the expense of taxpayer dollars.

(3) Whereas the budget for Evergreen State College is approximately \$116,782,000 and the state deficit is from \$4 -8 Billion, depending on who is presenting the creating accounting figures in Olympia, we can no longer afford to support an institution of higher education that does not educate and train students to be responsible and productive citizens.

Process to Eliminate Funding for Evergreen State College

NEW SECTION Sec. 2 Upon approval by the electorate, all assets will be immediately sold and monies received will be used by the state to reduce the budget deficit.

CONSTRUCTION CLAUSE

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. The provisions of this act are to be liberally construed to effectuate the intent, policies, and purposes of this act.

SEVERABILITY CLAUSE

NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

MISCELLANEOUS

NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. This act shall be known and cited as the “Cease to Fund Higher Education Freak Shows at Evergreen State College”.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. This act takes effect immediately upon voter approval in the November 2011 election .

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6. If you were to increase spending in any area of the budget, what would you increase and how would these increases be funded?

I cannot see any increases at the present time. The budget deficit is too large. I also see a Category 5 Storm on the horizon. By that I am referring to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. In the near future the Baby Boomers will retire and there will be more individuals drawing retirement than working. The federal government will undoubtedly postpone the retirement age, reduce the benefits for Social Security. In addition, I foresee increased premiums for Medicare. The less amount of aid from the Federal Government will equate to a higher demand for aid from the state systems. This forecast does not look good. We have to get rid the debt before this comes about.

7. Would you support the consolidation and/or closure of state institutions that house people with developmental disabilities and instead provide those residents with community alternatives that would still meet their needs, but at less government expense?

NO and NO. WE NEED BOTH. Community alternatives would be cheaper than housing individuals in a state institution. Too many households are dependent on a two source income. As a result, there is nobody available to care for the disabled or elderly. I would like to see families paid a monthly stipend to care for a disabled or elderly family member.

8. What would you recommend to begin serving the 16,852 individuals who have been waiting (some for years) for community services?

See Above.