



225 N 70th St, Seattle WA 98103 206-789-5565 <http://www.wwfor.org>

***WWFOR** seeks to replace violence, war, racism and economic injustice with nonviolence, equality, peace and justice. It links and strengthens FOR members and chapters throughout Western Washington in promoting activities consistent with the national FOR statement of purpose. WWFOR helps members and chapters accomplish together what we could not accomplish alone.*

WWFOR Spring Assembly, May 2, 2020

Peace and Justice in a Time of Coronavirus

Mark Your Calendar! Tell Your Friends! Saturday, May 2, 2020, 9 am – 12:30 pm

Zoom Videoconference (participate by internet or phone)

Please join us for the 22nd annual Western Washington FOR Spring Assembly; this year by videoconferencing or phone. Find out how several groups and organizations are compassionately and courageously continuing to provide services in this unusually trying time, and how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted them and the people they serve.

Everyone is welcome! All are invited to this video-or-phone-conference and there is no fee involved. After a welcome and introductions, we will have a series of workshops with Q&A included, and a closing session.

Workshop Presenters and Workshop Descriptions: <https://wwfor.org/spring-assembly-april-2020/>

Carly Brook of Washington Against Nuclear Weapons Coalition.

Paul Chiyokten Wagner of Protectors of the Salish Sea

Maru Mora Villalpando of La Resistencia.

Deborah Cruz of Advocates For Immigrants In Detention Northwest.

Kwabena Amoah-Forson of The Peace Bus.

REGISTRATION: Those with computer/internet access can register directly at: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LmU5xHJrR9G1EpT6A4Bwww. You will receive a confirmation email (sender David Lambert) with directions to join the conference by internet or phone (see info about Zoom below). Anyone without web/email access (please spread the word to friends!) can leave their info (name and phone number) at the WWFOR office line 206-789-5565 through Tuesday, April 28 at 5:00 pm. After that time, leave your info with David Lambert at 253-209-3559. Questions may also be addressed to David at lambertdavid39@gmail.com or 253-209-3559.

The 2020 Spring Conference organizers are David & Marti Lambert; Vivi Bartron; Rick Trombley; Fran Hall; Susan Donaldson.

GET STARTED WITH ZOOM:

If you have internet access, but have never Zoomed, this is a great time to get started! The website to download Zoom is <https://zoom.us/>

There is a box to click on for “Sign up for free.” Just click there and follow the instructions. I (Jean, one of the office volunteers) did this recently and found it pretty easy.

When you have signed up for Zoom and registered for the Spring Assembly, you will get instructions from David Lambert about how to participate in the Assembly. David will send a link for you to use to join the conference (or if joining by phone, a phone number and code).

For more information and training resources, see the Zoom website, <https://zoom.us/docs/en-us/covid19.html#resources>

Once you get used to Zooming, you may find it convenient for all kinds of activism as well as non-contact communications with family and friends, whether on the next block or across the world!

Stop state budget cuts during coronavirus pandemic and focus on tax reform

Originally published in The Seattle Times, April 7, 2020

by Mark Vossler, a Kirkland cardiologist, chair of the Climate Task Force and president-elect of Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility, Max Savishinsky, executive director of Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility, and Stephen Bezruchka, a senior lecturer, University of Washington School of Public Health, and a board member of Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility. His views are his own and not those of the University of Washington.

We are in a time of crisis, a time of great uncertainty. We don't know how many people will die of COVID-19, nor the extent of the economic harm that will result from physical distancing. We do know that the health and economic pain will be felt most acutely by low-income people and communities of color, and we must protect the programs and services that support those who are most vulnerable due to long-entrenched systemic inequities.

On April 1, The Seattle Times editorial board called for deep cuts to the state budget, and on April 3, Gov. Jay Inslee heeded that call, cutting \$235 million by line-item veto from the 2020 budget that the state Legislature approved last month. On the chopping block are programs for school counselors, medication assistance, climate-change mitigation and adaptation, mental health, and long-term care among many others.

As it stands, our state government is woefully underfunded, and there's little we can truly afford to cut. To mitigate and recover — sustainably — from the economic aspects of this disaster is to reform the most regressive state tax code in the country. Unfortunately, such reform runs counter to the prevailing supply-side dogma.

Our backward tax system deprives our state of the revenue it desperately needs to support the basic needs of our institutions and people. Divesting from critical social programs

only compounds the damage, and the resulting harm would disproportionately hit those who are already vulnerable and suffering.

Even in the best of times, the most vulnerable among us are low-income children. Early-childhood health and education are the most influential determinants of adult health and financial well-being. Cutting programs that benefit low and middle-income children now will have a lasting deleterious impact on the health and economic well-being of the residents of our state. The correlation between economic inequity and poor health outcomes is clear.

The most oft-repeated but erroneous piece of economic dogma is that cutting social spending and lowering taxes will stimulate growth. In fact, the opposite has been shown to be true time after time. Putting money in the hands of the poor increases consumer spending and stimulates economic growth, far more than one-time cash transfers and tax cuts for the wealthy. Keeping money in the hands of the wealthy drives further accumulation of capital and exacerbates economic inequity. And inequity is closely correlated with declining health, as evidenced by the fact that, the world over, countries with greater inequality have lower overall life expectancy.

As health professionals, we are deeply worried about the determinants of poor health that cannot be treated by standard medical means. This is why we seek solutions at the societal level, to prevent that which we cannot cure.

We call for a halt to state budget cuts. We call for tax reform to commence early in the recovery phase from this crisis. Reforming our backward tax code should include cuts to sales and property taxes, which hit low- and middle-income households hardest. It should include an appropriately progressive income and capital-gains tax, which the wealthy can certainly afford. It should include tax credits for working families who form the engine of our local economy.

A special session of the Legislature, later this year to review the budget after the pandemic phase passes and the economic impact on low-income communities is better understood, would also be in order. Pursuing shortsighted solutions to our current crises — such as cutting spending on public health and education — will not solve our economic and health problems; it will create new ones.

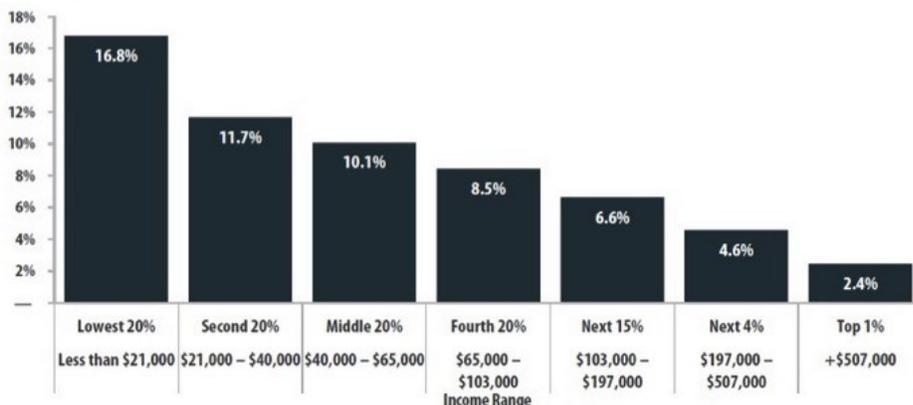
Source: Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, *Who Pays?* (2015)

Tax system impacts on income: WA

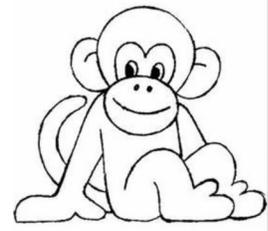
Washington

State & Local Taxes in 2015

Shares of family income for non-elderly taxpayers



WOW!! WE HAVE THE MOST REGRESSIVE STATE TAX SYSTEM IN USA !!!!



**COVID-19 lesson: The free market failed us.
For this crisis and the next, we must manage our
future better than we have our past.**

2020 by Stan Sorscher reprinted from The Stand, April 6,

<https://www.thestand.org/2020/04/covid-19-lesson-the-free-market-failed-us/>

(April 6, 2020) — The pandemic has dominated our minds for weeks. Each day, new important lessons are drawn into the spotlight, demanding attention.

- We needed much better testing.
- We should have comprehensive health care coverage.
- We should have more reserves of medical supplies, and more surge capacity.
- We shouldn't have mocked other countries whose citizens wear masks in public.
- We should have an industrial base that can make more test kits, nasal swabs, face masks, and ventilators.

These must all be national strategies promoted by political leaders. For-profit corporations and market solutions are inherently short-sighted and inevitably underinvest in resources we will need in emergencies.

Another lesson is coming soon, when a vaccine is found, and we wait for months to ramp up capacity to produce enough doses to treat our family members, neighbors and co-workers.

Here is a lesson: for 40 years, we have accepted the premise that markets will solve all our problems, and we don't need national strategies. We traded our industrial capacity and technical leadership for cheap T-shirts and low-cost flat screen TV's. Now we are dependent on supply chains in other countries to respond to our emergencies.

China, South Korea, and Germany have effective national strategies and strong industrial bases. China was able to mobilize incredible resources in response to their epidemic. Germany's formidable industrial capacity in chemicals and pharmaceuticals positioned them to devise test kits for their own people, and supply kits for Europe and other countries. South Korea was way ahead of us in their public health response.

Our status as a global leader has passed. The Centers for Disease Control have fumbled their role as technical leaders. The FAA is no longer recognized as a global leader. Our investment in infrastructure has languished for decades. Students graduate with debts far greater than previous generations, and put us at a disadvantage in the global economy.

Governor Inslee's recent message — that we have a “can do” tradition — points to a better future. In past emergencies, we mobilized resources, because we had resources. Our leaders acted with urgency, gave us clear goals, and mobilized our industrial resources. Our manufacturers acknowledged at least a partial obligation to the public interest and would respond when called on. Governor Inslee gets credit for saying that out loud, and with a tone of common sense.

One of the most frustrating aspects of this pandemic is that most of us are expected to hide passively in our homes, while front-line workers battle furiously and heroically.

We all want ways to fight back. When the CDC finally said we should make our own masks, we quickly saw hand-made masks and video instructions everywhere. The Czech Republic mandated masks a few days ago, and their people are sharing hand-made masks with their neighbors. We are ready for

national strategies.

Here's another lesson. This pandemic is one of the biggest market failures in human history. Our infatuation with the idea that markets will solve all our problems may finally be over. The message for decades has been cost-cutting, deregulation, privatization, globalization, austerity, weakened social safety nets, frayed social cohesion, and smaller government. That approach is exhausted, socially, politically, and economically.

Here's what we need:

- To treat public health as a national interest, not a market commodity
- Universal health care coverage
- To make public investments in health research, care facilities, and careers of care providers
- To rebuild our industrial base as a national strategy

This coronavirus crisis is immediate and urgent. We need to think in those same terms about climate change, inequality, rebuilding our infrastructure, restoring our industrial base, investing in education, and stronger communities.

Last week, the Financial Times of London made essentially that argument:

Radical reforms — reversing the prevailing policy direction of the last four decades — will need to be put on the table. Governments will have to accept a more active role in the economy. They must see public services as investments rather than liabilities, and look for ways to make labor markets less insecure. ... Policies until recently considered eccentric, such as basic income and wealth taxes, will have to be in the mix.

The taboo-breaking measures governments are taking [during this crisis] are rightly compared to the sort of wartime economy western countries have not experienced for seven decades. ...

The leaders who won [World War II] did not wait for victory to plan for what would follow. ... That same kind of foresight is needed today. Beyond the public health war, true leaders will mobilize now to win the peace.

It's ironic that this strong language comes from a premier establishment newspaper. As we go into our presidential campaign, this should be a centerpiece message.



We can't leave everything to the free market. In fact, climate change is, I would argue, the greatest single free-market failure. This is what happens when you don't regulate corporations and you allow them to treat the atmosphere as an open sewer.

— Naomi Klein —

AZ QUOTES

Arrested Development

poetry by Larry Kerschner

I have been arrested multiple times for trespass
on federal property, pedestrian in the roadway, attempted
disorderly conduct, and frequenting a house of ill repute.
They check for drugs between your toes before letting you
into the holding cell.

It's not important that I can't remember
the exact number of times. I'm not sure
if there is such a thing as a good arrest
but practice is said to make perfect.

It takes 10,000 repetitions to master a skill.
Twenty hours a week for ten years.
As Samuel Beckett said, "Try again. Fail again. Fail better."
Dorothy Day said, "Don't worry about being effective.
Just concentrate on being faithful to the truth."

Those who arrest me never want to know why
as though the answer would somehow be threatening
The white plastic handcuffs never seem to be quite
the right fit especially behind my back.



Folks call me Moses

poetry by Larry Kerschner

John Brown's righteous right flank
General Tubman operated up front alone
not one word of ever holding back
nothing can be half measured

your mission led you calling the blues northward
through the tall grass and trees
along the freedom road that
you could see in the wilderness

you traveled years of pain to get here
you gave up your daughter
so she wouldn't be called slave
you have earned rest like a soft night wind

hundreds of intent black faces
held down by the deadly stain
of white cruelty and bitterness
rise up as hopeful witnesses
alive with your vision

So, Harriet, are you sure you want
your face giving a stamp of approval
on banknotes replacing the face of
a wealthy, slave owning planter

Tolstoy says Money is a new form
of slavery, and distinguishable
from the old simply by the fact
that it is impersonal—
that there is no human relation
between master and slave.

you clearly saw that which never was
that which remained
that which was possible
that which must be

there could never be written a poem or story
in which you could ever be slave again
unwilling to lift your clear voice to defend
all who have fallen or are being held down

Moses leading your people to a promised land

(Harriet Tubman 1822-1913)



On December 20, 2019, Jane Fonda spent a night in jail protesting the lack of action on climate change. The next day she celebrated her 81st birthday.

