

## **First District Democrats: We Stand With You**

We have been watching the current events across our country, and in many other countries, with a heavy heart.

In the middle of a global pandemic, we come face to face...again...with the evils of racism and institutional bias and their devastating impact on our Black friends and neighbors. Communities of color have long suffered injustice in the United States of America. It is past time for us all to act to undo this systemic racism that has plagued this land for over 400 years.

The world has witnessed with shock, dismay, anger, and deep sadness the recent atrocities committed in our country against the Black community at the hands of the worst members of law enforcement. Our thoughts and feelings are raw with the realization that these and other atrocities are nothing new, but have now been seen, seen repeatedly, and are unmistakable in their motivations. This is nothing less than unchecked violence against human beings, fueled by rampant racism.

The centuries-long, unrepented original sin of slavery and resulting systemic racism can and must be addressed, now and in the future.

We are fully aware that our police and justice systems are deeply infected with racism. As a community, and a nation, we must hold those who abuse their position of power and authority to account.

We also support the right of our citizens to assemble and hold our elected officials and law enforcement accountable, and we support the call to defund/demilitarize the police.

The Washington State First Legislative District Democrats stand, in solidarity with our Black communities, against racial injustice.

It is time we all stand up, take action, and acknowledge to our most at-risk citizens that it is not enough to just pledge support. We need to

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stand, now, and make sure that with the upcoming election we don't elect racism, fascism, or hate into office.

We are dedicated to combating voter suppression in all its forms and are committed to electing people of color at the local, state, and national levels. Representation – having a seat at the decision-making table – matters. In fact, it is a crucial step towards affecting true equity.

As a nation, as a community, we must do better. We will continue to stay informed, to check our own actions and communications, each and every day, to be a resource for others, and to take a stand as anti-racist. The racism in us and our society must be called out and eliminated through the persistent challenge to be better, to do better;

Every day.

Every one of us.

In solidarity with our friends and neighbors in every Black community, across the nation,

First Legislative District Democrats