

## 46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats Legislative & Statewide Questionnaire

### Candidate Information

Candidate Name: Hilary Franz

Office sought: Commissioner of Public Lands

Mailing address:

Friends of Hilary Franz  
PO Box 20664  
Seattle, WA 98102

Phone: (206) 734-9729

Email: Hilary@hilaryfranz.com

Campaign Manager Name: Kristin Elia

Consultant(s): Christian Sinderman, Hiram Sachs

Website: [www.hilaryfranz.com](http://www.hilaryfranz.com)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Hilary-Franz-499984396876222/>

Have you read the 46<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats Draft 2016 Platform? Yes  No   
(Go to [http://www.46dems.org/2016\\_ld\\_caucus](http://www.46dems.org/2016_ld_caucus) and click "Draft Platform")

### **Why are you running for this office?**

Washington State is one of the most beautiful places to live – from its great mountains, lakes, rivers and coastline to its forests and farmlands. But our state's great natural places face challenges from an increasingly growing population to increasing climate change. How we manage, protect, and care for Washington's precious public lands and waterways will shape how we mitigate climate change, protect our air water, and safeguard our timber, shellfish and agricultural industries. Our next Commissioner of Public Lands must be a steward for conservation, a voice for economic justice, a partner for rural economic strength, and an advocate for clean energy jobs.

Our public lands have the ability to contribute to the quality of life for people and communities across the state while also helping to advance environmental stewardship, sustainably manage our resources, and ensure energy independence. As we experience a growing population and even more impacts of climate change – from forest fires, drought, storm events, sea level rise and ocean acidification, we need effective management of these resources. As Commissioner of Public Lands, I will bring effective management of our most critical natural resources, utilizing modern strategies to confront major trends including the likelihood of continued and increasingly constrained funding resources, the changing demographics of a population that is becoming more urban, and a changing climate that will continue to have impacts on land, water, wildlife, and tribal and rural communities.

**Please briefly describe your qualifications for this office and your personal and professional background.**

For 20 years, as an environmental attorney, a non-profit CEO, and a local government official, I have been working to protect our state's farmlands, forestlands and waterways. For the last 5 years, I have been CEO of Futurewise, the state's leading voice for smart, sustainable land use and transportation policies, working to protect millions of acres of farmlands and forestlands, improve protections on our state's waterways and water resources, and address climate change. Prior to Futurewise, I have represented local governments, non-profit organizations, and citizen groups as an environmental attorney, working across the state on a broad range of land use and environmental law issues, including the Growth Management, Shoreline Management, Endangered Species, Clean Water, and State Environmental Policy Acts. From 2008 to 2011, I served as a Bainbridge Island city councilmember and government leader, bringing together diverse coalitions of local, state, and national public and private entities and developing nationally recognized environmental policies and programs. I have worked in almost every county of the state on protecting our natural resource lands and waterways and ensuring healthy local economies.

I am an active leader in the local government and environmental arena. I sat on the Puget Sound Regional Council Growth Management Board, the Puget Sound Regional Council Economic Development District Board, the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council, and the Puget Sound Transportation Futures Task Force. At the appointment of Governor Gregoire, I served on the Washington State's Climate Action Team on the State Environmental Policy Act. I have served on numerous boards, including serving on the Conservation Northwest Board, the Washington Environmental Council, the Center for Environmental Law and Policy, and Friends of the Farms.

**Do you consider yourself a Democrat? Have you ever been a member of another party? Have you been actively involved with the Democratic Party?**

I am a Democrat. I have never been a member of any other party. I have been actively involved with the Democratic Party as PCO and as a local elected official.

**What's your plan to win?**

To win this campaign, starts with hiring a talented campaign team. I have hired my campaign team, including my campaign manager Kristin Elia (from AFT Washington, AFL-CIO), campaign treasurer (Abbot Taylor), general consultant (Christian Sinderman), political communications consultant (Hiram Sachs), and campaign fundraiser (Katherine Bobman). Within just one week received three earned media, and I have raised approximately \$40,000. In that week, I launched my website, my social media, my literature and donation materials, my one pager, and my first email blast going out to thousands across the state. I plan to raise over \$300,000 by the primary and one million by the general election.

To win this campaign, I will leverage my statewide network for fundraising, spreading the word, volunteering, and getting out the vote. As the Executive Director of a statewide non-profit, I

have a wide fundraising and relationship network that covers the state from the coast to the Puget Sound to eastern Washington. In my work over the last 20 years, I am the only candidate in the race that has worked in almost every county of the state on the issues that DNR works on. I am the only candidate that has built relationships across the state, in a majority of counties with decision makers, community based organizations and citizens. I am also the only candidate who has fundraised statewide. I plan to visit every county of the state and leveraging the relationships I already have there. Besides leveraging my statewide relationships, I will also leverage my relationships in the environmental community, which I have worked in for over 20 years and my relationships with labor, which I have worked closely with over the last six years on land use, transportation and energy issues.

**What do you see as the most important functions of the position you are running for? What qualities do you possess that make you the candidate best suited to this role?**

The most important functions of this position will be setting forth a clear vision for the Department, providing constant leadership and delegating responsibility, being visible to the internal team and also to external stakeholders and community, being objective to different view points and helping resolve challenging issues, and coaching and supporting management and staff.

As we reform an agency, build morale, and confront the environmental and economic challenges the agency faces, I will bring a lifelong connection and commitment to the people and places of this state. My grandparents came to the Nisqually Valley in the Great Depression to start a cattle farm, which remains in our family today. I have worked as an attorney serving tribes, local governments, small businesses and communities working to protect natural resources lands, fish and wildlife habitat, and protect local jobs. I have served as a local government official and as Executive Director of Futurewise, working with local, regional, and state officials across the state to develop and implement innovative solutions to complex land use and environmental problems. I understand well the issues that divide different communities and interest groups. I have the policy, legal, and science experience and skills as well as a proven track record for working on the issues of our farmlands, forest, and waterways across the state. I have proven over 20 years my ability to thread the needle between traditional divisions in environmental issues to reach solutions that are a win for the environment, communities and local economies.

**If elected what would your top three priorities be?**

My top priorities as Commissioner of Public Lands will be:

1. Restoring Healthy Forests: Our publicly owned and privately managed forests are Washington's defining landscapes and the foundation for healthy communities and healthy rural economies. Climate change, unsustainable logging and poor management threaten our forests, requiring immediate action. I will:

- a. Implement a wildfire prevention plan and secure funding from the Legislature to prevent and respond to ever-increasing and dangerous fires;
  - b. Enlist the best science and management practices to slow and reverse impacts of insect and disease that kill trees, create fire risk, and threaten jobs; and
  - c. Reform management practices to stop risky steep-slope logging, ensure needed setbacks for salmon habitat, and protect critical wildlife habitat.
2. Sustainable Management of Natural Resources: We need to protect our natural resource legacies -- our public ranchlands, forestlands and water bodies – from unsustainable use or conversion to development. Once degraded or lost these iconic places cannot be returned. That's why I will:
  - a. Increase sustainable leasing of DNR's grazing and agricultural lands for local agricultural production and farm-to-market enterprises;
  - b. Finish the Habitat Conservation Plan for our aquatic lands and continue to protect critical salmon habitat and shellfish beds, as well as managing resources for sustainable water supplies; and
  - c. Protect state lands in and near growing cities and communities to safeguard habitat and promote recreation, increase natural resource economies, and maintain growth boundaries.
3. Promoting Clean Energy, New Jobs, and Environmental Justice: The Department of Natural Resources has a critical role to play in securing a future for Washington that is cleaner, more sustainable, and more equitable. I will:
  - a. Adopt and implement a landscape approach to clean energy development, identifying best locations, setting renewable energy goals, improving transparency, increasing revenues, and ensuring local job creation;
  - b. Seek cleaner, equitable solutions to unacceptable land and water management, such as coal terminals that threaten low income populations along rail lines, water quality, and contribute to carbon pollution; and
  - c. Serve as a statewide partner and leader in efforts to transform our economy, curb carbon pollution, and promote equity in how we manage our land and water resources for all Washington families.

**How will you support women and families' economic opportunities? Would you support legislation closing the wage gap, funding childcare options, and requiring paid family leave?**

I support growing economic opportunities for all women and families.

I support all efforts to increase minimum wage, including a state-wide initiative as well as local governments having the authority to increase minimum wage even above that which is set by the state. I also oppose any efforts to lower minimum wage whether by tip penalties, training wages, healthcare penalty, teen wage or other. The minimum wage is exactly that—minimum. I would oppose any efforts to create a "sub" minimum wage.

I support paid family and medical leave, and I believe it should apply to all workers. Only three

states have adopted paid family, and they pay for it through employee paid payroll taxes. Washington state should identify a revenue source that does not impact employee income and instead has employers paying into a family leave insurance program. I would support any efforts whether through legislation or via initiative to expand access to earn paid sick and safe leave as well as to increase the minimum wage for Washington workers. I strongly support I-1433.

**How will you work to address racial equity?**

I will work to address racial equity through ensuring that government policies and investments address the historic inequitable distribution of benefits to those who are white and the distribution of burdens to people of color. Access to our public lands and waterways, how we utilize our public lands, who benefits from our public lands, and where we invest in our public lands is different for communities of color than white communities. I will work to address these issues to ensure that these inequities are addressed and corrected to ensure equitable access, utilization, and benefits from our public lands and waterways for communities of color.

**Describe your stance on Washington's tax structure. What needs to be changed? What should stay the same?**

Washington state has one of the most regressive tax structures in the country. We have a tax code that requires middle and low-income families to pay a much larger percentage of their income to the state than wealthy families. The lowest-income fifth of Washingtonians pay 16.8 percent of their incomes in taxes – seven times more than the richest 1 percent, whose tax rates average 2.4 percent. We apply our sales tax to basic necessities but we do not tax services that are used by those with more means. At the same time, we have more than 655 special interest tax breaks on the books in Washington state.

In addition to being unfair, our tax system is unsustainable. We continue to year after year have a budget shortfall. Indeed, our tax base has been on a consistent decline since 2000. The decline is largely because our system relies too heavily on sales tax, which is applied to a shrinking share of economic activity each year. As of 2013, Washington ranked 37th in the nation in terms of its tax revenue recovery following the Great Recession. This results in a continued impact on our state meeting our basic responsibilities for funding schools, infrastructure, health and human services, and parks and environment.

The biggest impact this unsustainable and regressive tax system has is on our schools and taking care of the next generation. Our State Supreme Court has declared it a constitutional mandate to adequately fund our schools. Given the billion-dollar hole still in our state budget, the growing population, and increasing demands for funding for basic services and infrastructure, it is clear we need to reform our tax code to secure adequate funding to meet our basic obligations. Tinkering with the budget will continue to just put a band-aid on the problem rather than fixing it.

Washington State needs to fix its declining revenues and regressive tax system. Washington is one of only nine states that that doesn't tax capital gains or profits from the sale of high-end

corporate stocks and other financial assets. We should close wasteful tax breaks and wasteful tax incentives that do not promote public interest. Specifically, I would support sunseting all tax incentives and vote to renew only those that can meet minimum performance standards in job creation and public benefit like affordable housing or renewable energy. These changes could bring \$1.5 billion in new revenue to fund critical funding for schools, health, human services, infrastructure and environment, while ensuring that all our residents and corporations pay their fair share.

### **How will you combat climate change?**

As Commissioner of Public Lands, I am committed to addressing climate change – not only in adaptively managing the state’s natural resources, but also in mitigating and adapting to climate change impacts. I will take the following steps to address the climate change crisis:

**Climate Mitigation.** The DNR has the opportunity to play a significant role in developing and implementing a clean energy strategy to secure an energy future for the state that reduces carbon pollution, through the responsible development of clean energy on public lands. I will seek adoption of a landscape approach on our public lands for energy development, identifying best locations (that avoids impacts to wildlife and other critical uses of the land), setting renewable energy goals, improving transparency, and ensuring local job creation. Specific steps I will take include:

- Set clear clean energy generation goals that increase capacity for renewable solar, wind, and geothermal energy resources on public lands while ensuring full environmental review
- Develop understanding of biological carbon sequestration capacity on public lands to develop ecosystem services approach to critical public lands and opportunities for carbon mitigation and offsets.
- Protect and promote sustainably harvested local natural resource materials – wood and food products to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from exportation.

**Climate Adaption and Resiliency.** DNR’s responsibilities for management of lands, waters, and wildlife provide first-hand experience of the impacts of a rapidly changing climate. Impacts include increasing wild fires, drought, severe flooding, changes in fish and wildlife habitat and behavior, warmer rivers and streams, and sea level rise. As leader of DNR, I will bring the best science to bear to understand these consequences and will undertake mitigation, adaptation, and enhancements to support natural resilience. Specific steps I will take include:

- Develop and implement of a comprehensive wildlife fire management strategy that aligns preparedness, suppression, hazardous fuels reduction, and habitat restoration programs that consider the impacts of climate change.
- Develop and implement strategies for healthy watersheds and sustainable water supplies given increased droughts, promoting water conservation and partnerships for the responsible management of water supplies.
- Incorporate climate change projections into analyses of all resource threats, trends, data, and monitoring needs, as well as future planning and resource needs.

- Develop clear forecasts and landscape mapping of landslide and erosion hazard areas as a result of increased storm events.

I am committed to making DNR a national leader in integrating preparedness and resilience efforts into its mission, goals, strategies, and programs; identifying vulnerabilities and systematically addressing these vulnerabilities; and incorporating climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies into management plans, policies, programs, and operations.

Question	Support	Oppose	Qualify, if needed
Do you support or oppose Raise up Washington's initiative to increase the minimum wage?	X		
Do you support or oppose access to safe and legal abortion?	X		
Do you support or oppose amending Washington's Constitution to require a two-thirds vote to raise revenue?		X	
Do you support or oppose allowing coal or oil to be exported from Washington State's ports?		X	
Do you support or oppose making two years of community college or technical school tuition-free?	X		
Do you support or oppose requiring paid vacation and sick/safe leave?	X		
Do you support automatic voter registration?	X		
Do you support or oppose the death penalty?		X	
Do you support or oppose barring employers from asking criminal history questions in job	X		

applications?			
Do you support or oppose legislation to fix Washington’s “three strikes” law?	X		

The following questions are position specific. You only need to complete the questions for the position that you’re running for.

**Superintendent of Public Instruction**

How will you work to address the achievement gap in our public schools?

Please describe your position on standardized testing.

Given the *McCleary* decision, what legislation do you support or propose to fully fund education and maintain funding for other basic services? Do you support increasing revenue? Given existing public needs and the state of the economy, should such legislation include increasing revenue?

Do you support or oppose charter schools? Why or why not?

**Secretary of State**

How will you work to increase voter enfranchisement?

**Legislature (House and Senate), Governor, Lt Governor**



Given the *McCleary* decision, what legislation do you support or propose to fully fund education and maintain funding for other basic services? Do you support increasing revenue? Given existing public needs and the state of the economy, should such legislation include increasing revenue?

Do you support or oppose charter schools? Why or why not?

#### **Lt Governor**

How would you use your office to promote international economic development that benefits our state?

When the Governor is out of state or otherwise incapacitated, the Lt. Governor becomes the acting Governor. How would you handle that responsibility? What kind of actions would you take?

#### **Commissioner of Public Lands**

**In 2015, Washington faced the largest and most destructive forest fires in history. What will you do as Lands Commissioner to prevent or respond to wildfires?**

Our forests face unprecedented challenges. Widespread habitat degradation and uncharacteristic fire, insect, and disease outbreaks in forests across Washington State have revealed the state of poor health our forests are in, the impacts of our changing climate, and the importance of increasing the pace and scale of forest restoration. There are nearly 2.7 million acres of eastern Washington forestland requiring some sort of active management to restore forest health and create forest structures more resilient against insects, diseases and wildfires. Decades of past management practices have changed the structure of these forests, resulting in species compositions in overstocked stands that are susceptible to more intense burns. Climate change has only worsened these challenges, while homes built on and near forestland have further increased human exposure to these risks.

As Commissioner of Public Lands, I will develop and implement an effective Wildfire Management Plan that is about restoring more resilient vegetation patterns, thinning of forest stands, cleaning up of woody debris, and prescribed burning. Forest restoration will require the integrated use of restoring more resilient vegetation patterns, thinning of forest stands, cleaning up of woody debris, and prescribed and managed fires to achieve the necessary changes in landscape patterns, at scales broad enough to be meaningful. Future management should aim to restore more resilient vegetation patterns that can help to realign the severity and patch sizes of these disturbances, promote natural post-disturbance recovery, reduce the need for expensive active management, and drastically reduce the role and need of fire suppression. Management includes prescribed burning which is done in wetter conditions to

make fire easier to control, as well as thinning of small trees and cleaning up of underbrush. Prescribed fire has been proven to help in slowing the growth of large summer fires and providing firefighters with areas to establish clear fire lines when needed.

A key component of successfully managing wildfires will also involve working with communities to be more prepared and adapt to wildfires. The Wildfire Management Plan must include community outreach and education to help communities and homeowners plan and implement actions to mitigate the risks and respond quickly to wildfires. It will also include working with local government on building and zoning codes to mitigate fire risk to protect life and property from fire. Community outreach, engagement, and support with the communities most affected by wildfires is essential to build trust and confidence in DNR's approach and to be more effective at preventing harm to people and property.

Finally, we need adequate funding for restoring forest health and fire suppression is essential. In a time of budget reductions and increasing demands for funding for schools, infrastructure and other services, we need to emphasize the importance of funding for wildfire management and prevention as critical to protect the public and jobs, and that it is less costly to manage and prevent large wildfires than to react when they are out of control. As Commissioner of Public Lands, I will work with the Governor and Legislature to secure critical funding for restoring forest health and fire suppression.

Timber, many parts of the state, is a hot button issue. While some want to protect our forest canopy, others see jobs and resources for building schools as more important. Where do you land in this debate? How will you use your position to find compromise?

The people of Washington State value our economy, children and environment. They are all equally important for that reason we must find solutions where they are not pitted against each other but where the solutions are working for the benefit of all three.

First, the idea that great schools require that we log our forests in an environmentally harmful and unsustainable way is antithetical to our values and to logic. With a growing population and an ever-increasing need for schools, it is also unsustainable.

When the federal government gave the State of Washington responsibility for almost 2 million acres of forest lands and directed the State to use the proceeds from the use of these lands to fund K-12 common school construction, it was a very different time from the present. We were not faced with significant population growth, climate change, or a deep understanding of the connectedness of our air, water, and forests. At that time everything in nature seemed bountiful, and our forests seemed like a renewable, unlimited resource.

Obviously, times have changed. When laws no longer serve their purpose or are seen as anti-thesis to our values, we have worked to change them. With perseverance, determination, common sense and justice on our side – the right changes happen. I am committed to working to change this archaic law in the Legislature and any other public policy arena.

There is precedence for such changes in the law. In 2000, the Federal Government adopted the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act. The Rural Schools Act provided consistent and reliable funding for over 775 rural counties and 4,400 schools located near

national forests. The law replaced revenue sharing with a guaranteed level of payments that was no longer tied to the amount of timber produced from the National Forests. There is no reason Washington cannot and should not do the same. And this is a good opportunity to do so. Already putting pressure on the current situation is Washington State's projected population growth by millions over the next 20 years, the long-standing volatility in the timber markets, increasing threats to our forests from insects, disease, and wildfire, and the recent McCleary decision. This means that now is an opportune time to make a change.

I will work with the Legislature, the Governor, business, labor, and private foresters to secure a dependable permanent funding source for schools, breaking their dependence on the historical forest-funding stream. Together we will find other funding alternatives, such as an increase in B&O taxes, an education dedicated tax, the redirection of corporate tax breaks to our schools, increased leases on agricultural lands, growing recreation on DNR lands, and expanding renewable energy generation (wind, solar, etc.) on DNR lands to increase lease revenues and combat climate change.

Washington State should not accept the illogical and unsustainable dependence of our K-12 construction system on the logging of state trust lands—especially when the future of our children are at stake. A solution will require that a diverse group of stakeholders develop a smart sustainable solution that decouples logging and long-term school funding. My experience is in building diverse coalitions that collectively find win-win solutions to our most challenging situations. This coupled with my determination and tenacity will help us finally get at a long-term solution that decouples logging and school funding and finds a sustainable funding source for schools.

On the question of balancing jobs and the environment, our forests are an important natural resource, providing critical paper, lumber, and pulp resources. Where we harvest and use these resources within our own state, we reduce the environmental impacts of shipping them from other places. We also can better manage and control where our wood products come from to ensure they are not coming from old growth critical wildlife habitat sources. We also ensure a local economy, providing critical jobs right within our state. Where critical fish and wildlife habitat protection – like the marbled murrelet, spotted owl, and salmon bearing stream buffer areas – reduce the ability to increase timber harvest, DNR should work with the local communities and Legislature to develop new job development opportunities, equitable redistribution of funding or other revenue sources (like renewable energy opportunities, carbon sequestration trust funds) to ensure the success not just of the fish and wildlife habitat but the communities that have historically depended on this funding stream for jobs and providing for their families.

#### **Treasurer**

What role does the Treasurer hold in maintaining a healthy credit and bond ratings for the state of Washington? Do you see room for improvement?

**Auditor**

How will you restore confidence in the office of Auditor as a successor to Troy Kelley?

How will you prioritize agency and organizational audits?

**Attorney General**

What accomplishment from your tenure are most proud of?

**Insurance Commissioner**

What accomplishment from your tenure are most proud of?