



**Nonprofit Association  
of Washington**

**Learn. Advocate. Collaborate.**

# The Nonprofit Association of Washington Public Policy Principles

**Updated January 3, 2022**

## Overview

Nonprofits provide services, good jobs, and civic engagement that make our communities stronger. First and foremost, nonprofits improve our world through charitable work in a range of fields including arts and culture, human services, healthcare, education, environmental conservation, animal welfare, housing and much more. Nonprofits are also an important part of our economy, employing 1 in 10 workers in Washington State's private workforce and leveraging volunteer work valued at \$5 billion annually.

The Nonprofit Association of Washington, our state's association for all nonprofits, is proud to advocate for nonprofits using the following framework.

### **Protect**

We monitor the state legislature to identify and influence bills that may impact nonprofits.

### **Promote**

We build awareness of the value and impact of the nonprofit sector to our state, our communities, and our families.

### **Advance**

We improve partnerships between nonprofits and government.

### **Improve Racial Equity**

We support policies that improve racial equity in Washington State and the nonprofit sector.



Snoqualmie Falls



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## Tax Policy: Encouraging Action for the Common Good

Nonprofits receive preferential tax treatment in recognition of the public benefit they provide. The Nonprofit Association of Washington is committed to preserving the tax-exempt status of organizations contributing to the well-being of their communities and strengthening and expanding incentives for individuals to give their time and money to nonprofit organizations whose missions they support.

### **The Nonprofit Association of Washington supports proposals that:**

Maintain and—where appropriate—expand nonprofit exemptions from paying state and local property, sales, excise, and use taxes.

Create a universal charitable deduction that recognizes and incentivizes charitable giving from all income levels.

### **The Nonprofit Association of Washington opposes proposals that:**

Establish floors, caps, or limits on existing charitable giving incentives.

Impose fees, payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTs), and taxes on tax-exempt nonprofit organizations that divert charitable resources to government.



Spokane



Rimrock Lake



Leavenworth



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## Budget, Spending, and the Economy: Addressing Community Needs

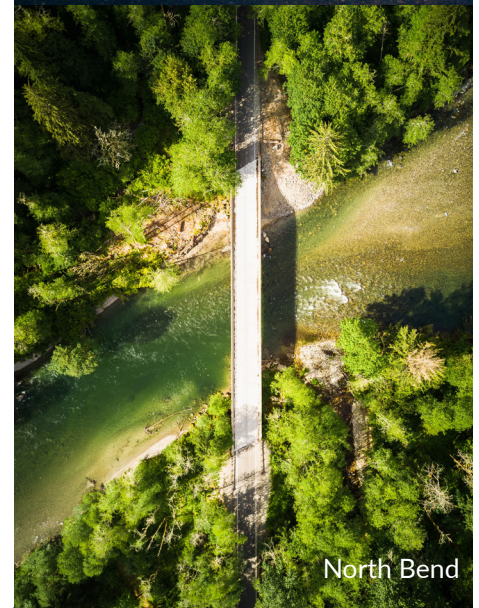
As employers, taxpayers, and service providers, nonprofit organizations are integrally involved in the economies of their communities. The Nonprofit Association of Washington opposes the offloading of government services onto nonprofits without paying nonprofits the full cost of providing these services. When federal, state, and local revenue is reduced, nonprofits providing public services through grants and contracts with government typically receive disproportionate cuts. The Nonprofit Association of Washington supports reasonable revenue options and the closure of revenue loopholes to fund the delivery of critical community services.

### **The Nonprofit Association of Washington supports proposals that:**

- Ensure that incentives to improve wages, leave, and/or health care coverage apply equally to nonprofit employers.
- Ensure that legally mandated wage increases are reflected in public contract rates.
- Expand equitable access to broadband across Washington.

### **The Nonprofit Association of Washington opposes proposals that:**

- Mandate increased operating costs for nonprofits without providing funds for implementation (unfunded mandates).
- Call for arbitrary or across-the-board budget cuts.





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## Public Accountability: Ensuring Public Trust

Mission-driven nonprofits can be successful only through earning and maintaining public trust. The Nonprofit Association of Washington supports policies that balance transparency concerns with reasonable regulations that are feasible for nonprofit organizations.

### The Nonprofit Association of Washington supports proposals that:

Maintain a balance between protecting and informing the public and preventing excessive and disruptive regulatory burdens that hinder the missions of charitable nonprofits.

Set reasonable thresholds for mandatory audits of nonprofit finances.

Protect the decision-making autonomy and self-governance authority of charitable nonprofits.

Clarify that the application of state and local open meeting laws are limited to governmental entities and do not generally apply to private nonprofit or for-profit organizations.

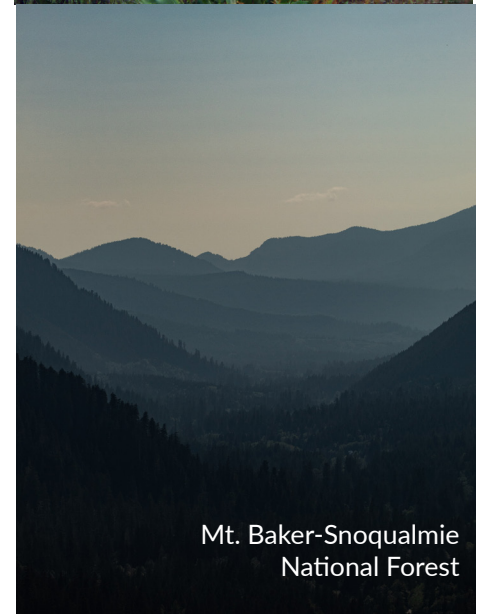
Increase transparency and accountability for charitable giving via sensible regulation of private foundations and donor-advised funds (DAFs).

### The Nonprofit Association of Washington opposes proposals that:

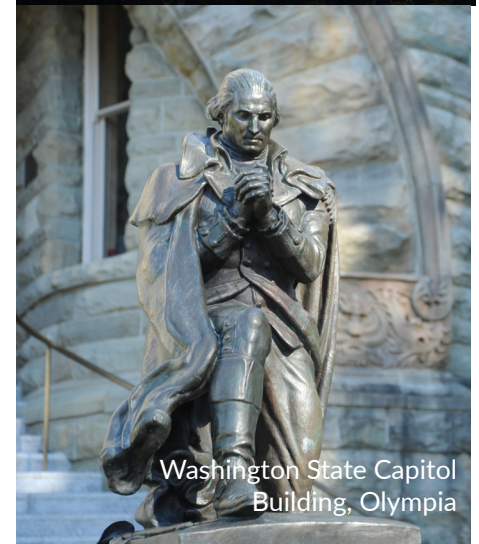
Restrict the advocacy rights of charitable nonprofits.



Steamboat Rock



Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie  
National Forest



Washington State Capitol  
Building, Olympia



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## Promoting Civic Engagement

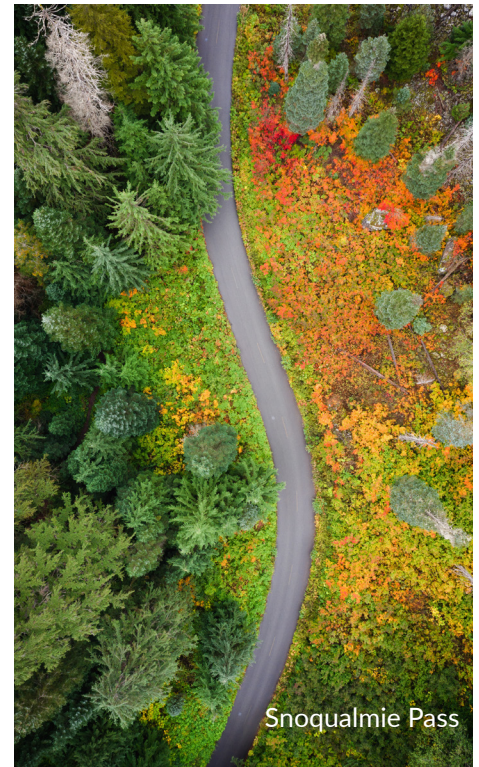
For the benefit of our democracy, nonprofits and their clients must be engaged in our civic processes. The Nonprofit Association of Washington supports policies that empower nonprofits and communities to participate in civil society, especially policies that serve to remedy the history of disenfranchisement in Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) and other marginalized communities.

### **The Nonprofit Association of Washington supports proposals that:**

- Protect and expand voting rights by breaking down barriers.
- Expand civic knowledge and opportunities for participation.
- Increase the partnership between nonprofits, communities, and government.
- Support programs or incentives that encourage individuals to volunteer their time and contribute money to nonprofits.
- Expand equitable and affordable access to broadband across Washington.
- Ensure our redistricting process in Washington is fair, equitable, and represents our diversity.

### **The Nonprofit Association of Washington opposes proposals that:**

- Restrict voting rights and/or disenfranchise specific groups or communities.
- Prevent nonprofits from engaging with elected officials.
- Require volunteerism as a criterion for receiving public assistance.



Snoqualmie Pass



Seattle



White Salmon



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## Building a Strong Partnership between Nonprofits and Government

Nonprofits and government have overlapping missions to serve the common good. Increasingly, nonprofits are the implementers of public priorities, delivering services via grants and contracts with government at all levels. To serve communities well, the public and nonprofit sectors must collaborate effectively.

### Washington Nonprofits supports policies that:

- Establish liaisons to the nonprofit sector within state and local government

- Give nonprofits a seat at the table for strategic discussions on issues of common concern

- Reform government contracting to balance accountability needs with reduction of unnecessary and burdensome requirements

- Remove barriers to community-based nonprofits established by and for Black, Indigenous, communities of color (BIPOC) and other marginalized communities accessing funding to serve their communities

- Improve equitable distribution of resources to reach historically underserved communities, including rural and BIPOC communities.



Vernita Bridge,  
Columbia River



San Juan Island

## About The Nonprofit Association of Washington

As Washington's state association for all nonprofits, we make sure that nonprofits have what they need to succeed. We represent over 650 members and thousands of nonprofits across the state of Washington.

Learn more at [www.washingtonnonprofits.org](http://www.washingtonnonprofits.org).

We will be hosting events and forums throughout the year to inform, engage, and inspire. Be sure to [subscribe to receive updates](#) on a regular basis. We look forward to working with you!