

2015 Legislative Agenda

Expand Dual Language Programming & Bilingual Instruction

By 2025, 25% of Washington public school students will be English language learners (ELLs). Early learning and K-12 dual language programs are a smart investment in the education of our state's children and represent the best evidence-based approach to meeting the needs of ELLs and an important strategy for closing the academic opportunity gap. **Expand the number of early learning and K-12 dual Language programs in Washington and increase our bilingual teaching workforce to provide all Washington students with the best opportunity to succeed.**

Promote Alternatives to Costly Federal Litigation

The new **Washington Voting Rights Act (WVRA)** legislation is designed to ensure that every voter has an equal opportunity to elect the candidate of his or her choice. It empowers local governments to avoid costly federal litigation by tailoring a local solution to the problem of polarized voting, when it excludes communities from a fair chance at representation. **New provisions in the WVRA provide a road map around litigation by requiring plaintiffs to produce evidence of polarized voting and a remedy to the problem before filing suit, giving local governments an opportunity to avoid costly court battles.**

Make Polluters Pay

Free polluting has protected corporations' profits at the expense of immigrant and refugee communities' health in Washington State. Passing the **Carbon Pollution Accountability Act** would hold polluters responsible, clean up polluted communities and create green jobs. **OneAmerica Votes and our allies believe it's time to hold polluters accountable and to ensure that such a system delivers environmental and economic benefits to those communities hit hardest by climate change and poor air quality.**

Maintain Access to Citizenship

Each year, the **Washington New Americans Program** brings free naturalization services to thousands of the more than 180,000 legal permanent residents in the state who are eligible to naturalize but face economic barriers to doing so. Without this program, many legal permanent residents would have to pay steep attorneys' fees to apply for citizenship – an obstacle that effectively deters many from ever becoming full members of our democracy. **Fund the Washington New Americans program at \$700,000 per year (\$1.4 million/biennium).**

Raise New Revenue

OneAmerica urges the legislature to raise new revenue to fund vital services and meet the basic needs of Washingtonians.

OneAmerica Votes also supports:

- **Family Unity Act**
- **Good Neighbor Proviso**
- Authority to fund **Sound Transit 3**
- Increase to the **State Minimum Wage**
- **Early Start** with culturally relevant care
- Reform **Legal Financial Obligations**