



# 2019 AG REQUEST LEGISLATION

REPEAL WASHINGTON'S UNCONSTITUTIONAL DEATH PENALTY AND  
REPLACE IT WITH LIFE IN PRISON WITHOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF PAROLE

## What needs to change?

On October 11, the Washington State Supreme Court found that Washington's use of the death penalty is "racially biased," "arbitrary," and "lacks 'fundamental fairness.'"

Consequently, the Court unanimously ruled that Washington's use of the death penalty is unconstitutional.

## Why is this change necessary?

The Legislature faces a choice: either try to "fix" our broken death penalty to correct its unconstitutional application or abolish it and replace it with life in prison without the possibility of parole.

It's time to remove Washington state's broken and unconstitutional death penalty from our statute.

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A study submitted to the Supreme Court and reviewed by an independent court commissioner found that black defendants were four times as likely as white defendants to be sentenced to death.

## Around the US:

Washington state is the 20th state to do away with capital punishment. North Dakota and Rhode Island legislatures repealed their death penalties after their state supreme courts ruled them unconstitutional as applied.

## What's the solution?

Abolish the death penalty and replace it with life in prison without the possibility of parole.

### Key Support:

- ACLU WA
- Assn. of Criminal Defense Lawyers
- City of Seattle
- Faith Action Network
- Innocence Project NW
- League of Women Voters of WA
- National Assn. of Social Workers WA Chapter
- Office of Governor Inslee
- Olympia Committee for Alternatives to the Death Penalty
- Planned Parenthood Votes NW & HI
- Quaker Voice on WA Public Policy
- WA Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty
- WA Defender Assn.
- WA State Catholic Conference
- WA State Coalition against Domestic Violence

### Prime Sponsors:

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