

Audio Transcript

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00:00:03.330 --> 00:00:12.450

Arik Korman: Hello, I'm Arik Korman communications director at league of education voters and the parent of a sixth grade son in the public school system who needs special education services.

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00:00:13.110 --> 00:00:27.450

Arik Korman: In case you're not familiar with us league of education voters is a statewide nonprofit working with families educators and leaders to build a brighter future for every Washington students. Our website is education voters.org

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00:00:28.200 --> 00:00:36.840

Arik Korman: We believe that education is a tool for justice, one of the systems that perpetrate racial injustice experienced by communities of color is our schools.

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00:00:37.380 --> 00:00:43.800

Arik Korman: We believe. Every child deserves an excellent public education that provides an equal opportunity for success.

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Arik Korman: In order to achieve this, we must pursue radical change in our school systems for equity justice and liberation.

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00:00:52.020 --> 00:01:01.200

Arik Korman: We must build schools and systems that honor the humanity in every student. Welcome to our free online Webinar Series lunchtime webinars.

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00:01:01.620 --> 00:01:07.770

Arik Korman: We started this series, seven years ago to share information and build knowledge on important and timely issues.

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00:01:08.340 --> 00:01:14.310

Arik Korman: Today's webinar is about what to expect in the Washington state legislative session in 2021

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00:01:15.150 --> 00:01:24.930

Arik Korman: During the 2021 legislative session, we must focus on community driven solutions to support students and families who have been historically and systemically underserved.

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00:01:25.290 --> 00:01:33.300

Arik Korman: Including students of color students in poverty students qualifying for special education services students learning English

00:01:33.720 --> 00:01:44.730

Arik Korman: Students experiencing homelessness and students impacted by trauma, we must ensure that in this moment of crisis and opportunity we create meaningful and lasting change.

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00:01:45.540 --> 00:01:55.680

Arik Korman: Our speakers today are league of education voters, Director of Policy and Research Jacob Vela and government relations consultant Carey Morris, they will give an overview of the

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00:01:56.460 --> 00:02:05.550

Arik Korman: Legislative landscape outline the possibilities in 2021 around it's efficient and effective resources for every students receiving special education services.

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00:02:06.000 --> 00:02:21.180

Arik Korman: Supportive and safe learning environments for every student in K 12 schools equitable levy and local effort assistance structures targeted to student needs and high quality early learning and childhood education for every early learner and answer your questions.

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00:02:22.260 --> 00:02:31.140

Arik Korman: A couple of housekeeping items before we begin, you'll notice a Q AMP a function of the bottom of your screen. This is a space for you to submit questions to us.

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Arik Korman: As always, feel free to send any feedback about the webinar quality to us on the chat function or at info at education voters.org. And speaking of the chat function, you're welcome to use it to check in and comment on anything you hear

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00:02:47.460 --> 00:02:54.030

Arik Korman: Jacob Vela's strong desire to get involved in the civic process led him to work in the election cycle in Nevada.

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00:02:54.540 --> 00:03:02.610

Arik Korman: That adventure compelled him to work as a legislative assistant in the Nevada legislature, where he focused on civic engagement and electoral issues.

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00:03:03.150 --> 00:03:08.670

Arik Korman: The strong civic culture and beautiful scenery of the great northwest managed to lure him away from the data.

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00:03:09.240 --> 00:03:15.120

Arik Korman: After settling in Seattle Jacob attended the Evans School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington.

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00:03:15.660 --> 00:03:28.110

Arik Korman: Prior to joining league of education voters Jacob worked with LOCAL NONPROFITS AND strategic planning and working to develop policies to improve the quality of life of formerly homeless individuals in downtown Seattle.

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00:03:28.740 --> 00:03:33.060

Arik Korman: Jacob received his BA in political science and Spanish from the University of Nevada.

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00:03:33.510 --> 00:03:41.160

Arik Korman: He earned his Master's of public administration from the Evans School of Public Affairs, with a focus on policy analysis and urban policy.

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00:03:41.730 --> 00:03:54.570

Arik Korman: When not in the office, he can be found wandering in the Cascades enjoying to come as parks or honing his skills as a woodworker. He also enjoys introducing his one year old daughter to the happiness of being outdoors.

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00:03:55.650 --> 00:04:05.280

Arik Korman: Carey Morris began lobbying state and local government entities in 1999 prior to this Carrie was the legislative assistant to STATE SENATOR GEORGIA Gardner.

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00:04:05.700 --> 00:04:13.230

Arik Korman: Worked on numerous political campaigns and served as an advisor coordinator for the voter Power Project in Northwest Washington

00:04:13.740 --> 00:04:22.740

Arik Korman: get out the vote campaign for women involved in the domestic violence community. She's worked with clients, ranging from local government entities to grassroots advocacy groups.

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00:04:23.370 --> 00:04:34.200

Arik Korman: Carey maintains strong effectual relationships with clients and public officials by providing accurate resort accurate research and a commitment to reading strong public policy.

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00:04:34.650 --> 00:04:45.150

Arik Korman: She also works to maintain strong effectual relationships with her two sons. As they navigate life together during the pandemic and caring for their small hobby farm outside of Bellingham

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00:04:45.630 --> 00:04:54.600

Arik Korman: Welcome, Jacob and Carey, thank you so much for joining us today. So what can we expect in the 2021 legislative session.

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00:04:56.430 --> 00:05:07.890

Carey Morris: You know, it's interesting. Eric, because I thought about that. Is there something you can say you could expect. I think you can expect that we're going to have to adapt quite a bit and be patient during this process.

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Carey Morris: We're going into a long session that's by Constitution. We're down there for 105 days, but also by Constitution. The only thing we actually have to do is that operating budget for the next biennium in the next two years.

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00:05:20.880 --> 00:05:28.410

Carey Morris: So we're all virtual they're going to be swearing in members virtually tomorrow and that the new members and city members.

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00:05:28.710 --> 00:05:36.930

Carey Morris: And then we by Monday, there will be the rules change. So both the Senate and House have different rules on how those chambers operate.

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00:05:37.380 --> 00:05:46.860

Carey Morris: And their members will have to actually take a rule vote to go virtual and that will be happening on Monday. And as we know we're all

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00:05:47.340 --> 00:05:59.970

Carey Morris: still reeling from what we saw occur on a federal level. Yesterday, we are also hearing. There will be people in Olympia wanting to occupy buildings not they would like us to be in person.

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00:06:00.900 --> 00:06:13.500

Carey Morris: So as they are doing, trying to abide by the public health guidelines to do this virtual vote. I mean this in person vote to go virtual you'll also see the members having to deal with that additional burden.

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00:06:14.640 --> 00:06:30.390

Carey Morris: And fear tactic. So they will take that vote, and then the House will be pretty much 100% virtual center, there'll be more of a hybrid, there will be some members that will be down there leadership and also others that have real need to be there.

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00:06:32.130 --> 00:06:46.740

Carey Morris: It has been a learning and we're having a pivot quite a bit on what Kofi has been bringing what we've been facing. First, we felt there was really be a budget crisis and now it's just the logistics and the gymnastics to run an online session.

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00:06:48.510 --> 00:06:56.880

Carey Morris: There, everything will be virtual so all the committee hearings will be virtual all the testimony. And so there is some pros to this for individuals who haven't been able

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00:06:57.150 --> 00:07:05.070

Carey Morris: To access or come down to Olympia to take part in the process they can now take part in the process from their homes, they can take part of the process.

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00:07:05.850 --> 00:07:15.720

Carey Morris: By being able to testify virtually but also there will be ability to do written testimony which will then be put into a bill report so

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Carey Morris: Their voices will be heard a little bit more. So they might feel that because we were started doing some virtual actually the Senate in a few years ago, so

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Carey Morris: There are some pluses there, especially if there's issues that people are so compelled and really contact their legislators, they might have

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Carey Morris: More of ability to have those 15 minute meetings that we have down Olympia, they can make the appointment and do it in the same way that those of us who walk the marble halls get quite often.

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00:07:43.530 --> 00:07:57.240

Carey Morris: They also I mean this year is also pretty amazing. And this is one of those things as you get older, you know, you don't feel older to look in the mirror, sometimes you're wondering who the person is I kind of feel older on this one. And my career is that

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00:07:58.530 --> 00:08:01.830

Carey Morris: The last election AWS as vital.

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00:08:03.540 --> 00:08:16.440

Carey Morris: As it was, there was an amazing wave of women and people of color by POC that came into our legislature. In fact, the House Democratic committee is 60% women and 40%

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00:08:17.880 --> 00:08:27.030

Carey Morris: Bypass people of color. And what's amazing to me about that is I remember my career's my son feel old. Eric Pettigrew representative from

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00:08:27.690 --> 00:08:36.780

Carey Morris: The King County Seattle area standing up and being the only member and chair of the black caucus and that wasn't that long ago so

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00:08:37.620 --> 00:08:46.530

Carey Morris: I'm really excited for that change that also shows the democrats have both the House, the Senate and the executive branch. So I think that

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Carey Morris: There will be real conversations that need to have happen. There's an emphasis is they're looking at what are the as they're trying to

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00:08:54.660 --> 00:09:01.830

Carey Morris: What are we really going to focus on the caucus priorities equity is top of the list. And so

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Carey Morris: Actually having people of color at the table is so important and exciting.

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00:09:08.100 --> 00:09:18.450

Carey Morris: They're going back to what they're focusing on. So, the house is put together. They really are limiting the amount of bills, they're having members bring forward. They put a limit on seven hopefully they'll continue to

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00:09:18.720 --> 00:09:22.920

Carey Morris: Keep hold that line and really focusing it on coven

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00:09:23.850 --> 00:09:33.330

Carey Morris: Equity, including the police accountability and climate change issues and by coded response. That's a lot of the Human Services healthcare and education would fall into that.

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Carey Morris: This and they're also asking, not usually. We do build in both the Senate and House, but really picking one chamber is a coordinate

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00:09:40.950 --> 00:09:56.550

Carey Morris: I think we'll see it really difficult. My personal opinion is, is what's going to be lost this session and what to expect is the magic of the human element that we have in Olympia. That is what draws me to the career. There's something pretty

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00:09:59.250 --> 00:10:03.210

Carey Morris: Inspiring when you have people listening to others opinions and

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00:10:04.380 --> 00:10:17.280

Carey Morris: Different views with all of your senses being in the same room actually having that those moments of stakeholders to really build really powerful, strong legislation, and I think that's going to be lost.

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00:10:18.540 --> 00:10:22.680

Carey Morris: And the people you know stakeholder is hard. When we're sitting on Zoom's

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00:10:23.220 --> 00:10:29.880

Carey Morris: Trying to figure out, making sure we get the right people on a zoom call and their voices are being heard as they're trying to interrupt. It doesn't happen.

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00:10:30.360 --> 00:10:39.510

Carey Morris: It doesn't have the same organic kind of sitting around a table. Who else needs to be here. Tell me about your life. Tell me about your experience, what you're bringing to the table, which is

00:10:39.960 --> 00:10:46.770

Carey Morris: How Olympia works, why this process. Actually, we get such great legislation sometimes out of it. So,

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00:10:48.600 --> 00:11:01.020

Carey Morris: I could go on for a while, but I'm sure you want me to get more logistics, so that the house in the Senate, they will be hearing when they come in to do some of the rules changes. Another thing they'll be doing is we

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00:11:02.700 --> 00:11:14.580

Carey Morris: We set our schedule on our calendar on predominately by legislative history and rule and the legislature takes a vote on that every year to say, this will be our calendar for the session.

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00:11:14.910 --> 00:11:29.730

Carey Morris: And they will be changing kind of where it's been historically will be losing about a week of committee work because they're anticipating more need to be on the floor and pockets and staff and then committee hearings, they're really limiting the bills, as I said, because

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00:11:30.900 --> 00:11:40.800

Carey Morris: We're going to need to pivot going back. My first point and adapt, because as they're going through the process and the gymnastics of how a bill passes through a committee, the hearing the executive and behind the scenes.

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Carey Morris: All on this new virtual zoom. It's really difficult for that to happen, or it's slower process. So they're saying that we might see a third to a half

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Carey Morris: Less bills and we've ever seen before and I've heard from several people that we might seem a majority of the bills passed be bipartisan in nature.

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00:12:00.660 --> 00:12:08.550

Carey Morris: And really small have anything that's controversial or anything that really needs a lot of stakeholders and inner work between the two offices.

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00:12:08.970 --> 00:12:12.690

Carey Morris: Because one of the things that has been really brought to my attention.

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00:12:13.380 --> 00:12:19.980

Carey Morris: Is not only are we going to be last lacking the ability to connect with members in the hallway or when you come down, you have that

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00:12:20.250 --> 00:12:27.630

Carey Morris: Problematic committee, those, those moments that are empowering be part of the process and can be kind of exciting is they don't have the same

00:12:28.410 --> 00:12:40.800

Carey Morris: Ability to interact with each other when you watch the floor debate and you see the two senators in the back of the floor from the two different caucuses kind of working over language that's not going to happen as easily.

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00:12:42.150 --> 00:12:48.810

Carey Morris: And to me that that's also going to be a difficult and really slow down the process of what can get done this year.

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00:12:49.110 --> 00:12:49.500

Arik Korman: Yeah, that's

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00:12:49.830 --> 00:13:07.890

Arik Korman: Wondering if this forever. No, no, this is, this is really interesting and historic for that reason. Do you know if there have been any mechanism setup for relationship building either for legislators with colleagues or legislators with stakeholders of different kinds and communities.

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00:13:08.700 --> 00:13:13.890

Carey Morris: Well, they'll still do their zoom meetings like neither meet the 15 minute meetings they won't have those

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00:13:14.400 --> 00:13:20.190

Carey Morris: They're really trying to emphasize on having constituents those been done by constituents and what's

00:13:21.090 --> 00:13:34.530

Carey Morris: There are some members are kind of doing these our Zoom's where you lobbyists are advocates that have seen more frequently that aren't constituents, they come in and they picked people do private. I mean, we're all learning. I think

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00:13:35.910 --> 00:13:44.940

Carey Morris: Public disclosure. Even when we're texting with them. That's all public disclosure between them as well. It's just that human element of

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00:13:45.450 --> 00:13:56.310

Carey Morris: chit chatting while you're walking down the hall, your cup of coffee, asking how your kids are doing and kind of really seeing why people feel a certain way time learning about them, their background that

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00:13:56.730 --> 00:14:15.090

Carey Morris: We don't get in this form. No offense to everybody. And it's also personalities there, you know, shy people do that don't feel comfortable talking where they can see themselves or they don't want to interrupt in a stakeholder meeting and that's that's a loss as well.

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00:14:15.420 --> 00:14:25.920

Arik Korman: Yeah, yeah. I was wondering if they were going to do something like breakout rooms. You know where they have, you know, three or four or five people who just get to meet in a smaller group because that's one way of building relationships. During this time,

00:14:26.670 --> 00:14:33.570

Carey Morris: They will, and they are working on that as well. But it's those spontaneous ones that I think are we're gonna

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00:14:34.500 --> 00:14:43.590

Carey Morris: But I'm hoping this is will not be virtual next year. Sorry for the people who are enjoying this and like it. I'm sure there'll be an element that will continue on, but

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00:14:44.460 --> 00:14:58.440

Carey Morris: For the new members to miss the in the building, getting to know everybody having constituents come down, it's, it's going to be a loss. Yeah, how else to say that. I mean,

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00:14:59.220 --> 00:15:06.690

Carey Morris: Yeah, I've seen people who never you know and I know it's a burden for some people, but even just the gas to get to Olympia, but people that come down.

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00:15:07.110 --> 00:15:13.320

Carey Morris: They care about a bill you know their child's and special ed. They want to talk to their member about it and

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00:15:13.620 --> 00:15:21.900

Carey Morris: Having that moment where the member gets it and talks to them and remembers them when I see him or they pull them out of committee and just

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00:15:22.530 --> 00:15:36.000

Carey Morris: It's important empowers them to take more action. So just be patient. That's why I said you guys, we're gonna have to adapt. We're going to have to pivot a lot and be patient and just only appreciate staff.

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00:15:37.350 --> 00:15:48.330

Arik Korman: So yeah yeah and and just, just for clarity. If someone does want to schedule a meeting with a legislator, is it just a matter of contacting the legislators office and scheduling an appointment with their legislative assistant

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00:15:48.660 --> 00:15:49.770

Is that how absolutely

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00:15:51.030 --> 00:15:53.010

Carey Morris: Yeah. And a lot of people are doing it course.

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Carey Morris: Doing the email. It's easier to do it that way. You can also pick up the phone and call them.

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Carey Morris: They some members are still doing scheduling over the phone. So you can do it that way. And if you're not comfortable, zoom, there are Members who

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00:16:08.040 --> 00:16:15.360

Carey Morris: They mean I just said to somebody, I can do a call with you instead of a zoom and they're like, Oh, bless you. Thank you. I'll call you. As I'm driving or I'll call you.

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00:16:15.690 --> 00:16:22.230

Carey Morris: When I'm on my morning walk because they too are sitting in front of computers, quite often. And another thing that's going to be difficult. During

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00:16:23.400 --> 00:16:26.940

Carey Morris: The hearings and you can watch them on TV. W. Or you can watch them.

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00:16:28.380 --> 00:16:37.740

Carey Morris: On the ledge.blog.gov if you go to the committee's and they'll have the link for it. Is that so often when you're watching a committee hearing you get to see

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00:16:38.400 --> 00:16:48.540

Carey Morris: Even if it's just on TV. W. Who's interacting who's talking who's really listening who might be asking the questions. And who's left the room that's always interesting.

00:16:49.470 --> 00:17:04.650

Carey Morris: We won't be able to see that and they don't know so you won't know what members, they'll do a kind of around introduction, but you also won't be able to see your member all the time. If they're going to stay there. They just turn their camera off. And they'll be less kind of

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00:17:05.670 --> 00:17:20.070

Carey Morris: The interesting part, at least to me, because I'm a political nerd is to watch who's talking to who who is reacting to what what they're hearing who's making that connection during a committee hearing with the information being passed. Yeah, yeah, that makes perfect sense.

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Arik Korman: How has the state budget impacted or will it impact this upcoming session because I know that were impacted greatly by coven

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00:17:29.490 --> 00:17:40.050

Carey Morris: Yes. And we spent there's quite a bit of as we've been talking throughout the interim we expected to really be where we were in 2008 going into the great recession.

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00:17:40.440 --> 00:17:51.330

Carey Morris: Having to make some deep cuts in some vital programs. And so throughout the interim we were having conversations in trumping the summer months of

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00:17:52.170 --> 00:18:01.380

Carey Morris: What programs. We were really focusing on the role and looking at revenue and having conversations about revenue and what type of revenue.

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00:18:01.710 --> 00:18:10.500

Carey Morris: And progressive to really look at our tax structure and would we need bridge funding all these conversations were happening. And lo and behold, we get to November.

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00:18:11.100 --> 00:18:20.640

Carey Morris: And we're not. We're okay. I mean, we're not okay. We'd always like to see a little bit more. But, you know, it wasn't this deep dark hole that was anticipated.

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Carey Morris: The governor's proposal that he put out in December, he does build a new revenue. He actually so

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Carey Morris: He spent about 3 billion more than actually we have the funding for and then the outlook we we write our we

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00:18:36.090 --> 00:18:41.100

Carey Morris: Do our budgets for four years. So now, even though we running for two. There's a for your outlook.

00:18:41.640 --> 00:18:49.290

Carey Morris: And that's where it kind of gets a little bit more murky, but he actually built in some revenue because he wanted to expand some programs.

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00:18:50.250 --> 00:19:04.110

Carey Morris: And that keeps the revenue conversation on the table because it would we keep bringing up again the capital gains and other areas to make Washington State, a more progressive revenue state rather than

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00:19:05.430 --> 00:19:10.950

Carey Morris: Working for 50 years right now because about how we do it without the sales tax. So the budget, we will

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00:19:11.400 --> 00:19:27.090

Carey Morris: Again, we come in on 405 days by Constitution. The only thing we have to do in Olympia is passing operating budget in March will get the revenue newest numbers revenue forecast to see where we're at and we will build it based on that.

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00:19:28.830 --> 00:19:36.780

Carey Morris: But what we're looking at now is not not having to make those deep cuts we anticipated go over the summer.

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00:19:37.230 --> 00:19:50.850

Carey Morris: Which is so nice because those are some bleak conversations and for those of us to remember 2008 and we're still recovering from the cuts that programs took in 2008. It was a relief to see those November numbers. Yeah. Now, that makes perfect sense.

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00:19:51.420 --> 00:20:00.150

Arik Korman: In a moment, we're going to pivot to our priorities as league of education voters for the upcoming session. But I also want to let you know that if you have a question about the upcoming session.

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00:20:00.480 --> 00:20:10.830

Arik Korman: Feel free to put it in the Q AMP a function of the bottom of your screen. And now I like to move to Jacob. Jacob Bella is our Director of Policy and Research here at lab, Jacob. What are we going to be working on in

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00:20:12.690 --> 00:20:23.160

Jacob Vela: Thank you, Eric. I will start sharing that right now. Um, so I'll be going over our let's say priorities as legal education voters this upcoming session.

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Jacob Vela: And then if folks have questions on the q&a function as Eric mentioned, we can get to some of those questions on after I finish up. So the first area is around high quality early learning

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00:20:38.310 --> 00:20:44.580

Jacob Vela: As the current covert crisis has kind of reaffirmed to brighten up the forefront.

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Jacob Vela: High quality access to high quality early learning is critical for families and communities across the state, both from a learning perspective, but also from an IT perspective. So it's on.

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00:20:56.550 --> 00:21:03.570

Jacob Vela: One of the priorities is run the preservation and expansion of those high quality color early learning opportunities, especially for

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00:21:04.740 --> 00:21:06.120

Jacob Vela: folks from low income families.

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00:21:07.950 --> 00:21:16.020

Jacob Vela: Our second priority area is the supportive unsafe accessible learning environment for students and keep our schools.

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00:21:18.030 --> 00:21:26.160

Jacob Vela: Around on our first priority areas around the multi tiered system of supports, otherwise known as empty SS

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Jacob Vela: So this is around encouraging and enabling districts to adopt and implement these approaches to supporting students empty, empty SS frameworks about identify student needs, but also

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00:21:41.760 --> 00:21:51.570

Jacob Vela: Identify and support student needs, but also its academic as well as social, emotional, to try to address the full range of student need on

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00:21:52.650 --> 00:22:05.760

Jacob Vela: Both the token level but also at school wide level. So we're trying to create the frameworks and the part of the system to enable districts to better develop and implement these districts to better support students

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00:22:07.380 --> 00:22:10.440

Jacob Vela: Across the state under there.

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00:22:10.830 --> 00:22:11.610

Carey Morris: And then really quick.

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Carey Morris: Just one quick thing on this.

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00:22:14.280 --> 00:22:25.590

Carey Morris: One of the things we're also focused on making sure there's a lot. We're here about sending getting our kids back into school and the pros of that and there's a public health time debate occurring.

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00:22:26.400 --> 00:22:35.670

Carey Morris: We have been really focusing and making sure investments are being made in this area because you can get kids back in the classroom. But if you're not working with teachers.

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00:22:36.000 --> 00:22:46.380

Carey Morris: And support staff and kids to deal with and the trauma, they've dealt with over this pandemic. They're not gonna be ready to learn so large investments going to have to be made, not just

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00:22:47.010 --> 00:22:58.200

Carey Morris: It's gonna be ongoing. It just can't be an upfront one time. It's an ongoing training and really working with both the teachers and students in this area. Sorry, I just editorial comments. It's what I do so.

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00:22:59.220 --> 00:22:59.880

Jacob Vela: Thank you and

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00:22:59.910 --> 00:23:04.620

Jacob Vela: That's already current thing that will be bringing up during the course of this discussion.

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00:23:06.390 --> 00:23:17.190

Jacob Vela: And other areas around the universal design for learning. I think one, one of the things that has come to kind of into focus for this on remote learning environment that we're currently in as

145

00:23:17.580 --> 00:23:21.960

Jacob Vela: learners have different preferences for how they learn and how they experience education.

146

00:23:22.920 --> 00:23:29.820

Jacob Vela: And I think that's coming to greater focus because of the different way because of the remote learning and how students have fared in that setting.

147

00:23:30.570 --> 00:23:35.160

Jacob Vela: So one of our priorities is around supporting educators districts and schools.

148

00:23:35.520 --> 00:23:46.530

Jacob Vela: As they adopt and implement UDL approaches to an either inclusive practices to make sure the learning environment meets the learning needs of all learners, both from

149

00:23:46.980 --> 00:24:02.370

Jacob Vela: Whether it's students with disabilities students getting this proficiency. It's students that have just other preferences for how they intake and retain information so accommodating the diverse range of student learning needs.

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00:24:03.690 --> 00:24:11.550

Jacob Vela: Through again through more training more technical assistance and more support for districts to expand implementation across the state.

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00:24:13.710 --> 00:24:25.650

Jacob Vela: And this is kind of going back to what Kerry had just mentioned around mental health support. Um, one thing that has become more and more apparent in recent years prior to the pandemic is

152

00:24:26.610 --> 00:24:34.860

Jacob Vela: increasing level of mental health challenges and anxiety among our youth. If you look at some of the healthy use surveys across the state.

153

00:24:35.820 --> 00:24:43.650

Jacob Vela: It's has had been a growing problem prior to the bed pandemic and as I'm sure folks on this call today I'm

00:24:44.070 --> 00:24:52.980

Jacob Vela: Can probably SPEAK FROM FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCE THE pandemic that's caused a lot of stresses and anxieties and mental challenges in adults, too. So

155

00:24:53.880 --> 00:25:04.020

Jacob Vela: Acknowledging that reality and the landscape that we're now and if we're going to try to overcome the learning loss has been experienced and the disruption to the learning environment as well that students have experienced

156

00:25:04.560 --> 00:25:21.750

Jacob Vela: We're gonna have to support them in their mental health needs and social emotional growth areas so they can be in a position to re engage in the learning process and and make up that academic makes Meccano progress that was I'm slow down or halted during this current crisis.

157

00:25:24.450 --> 00:25:30.870

Jacob Vela: And other focus areas can be around a Learning Assistance Program. It's often referred to as the last program or lap.

158

00:25:31.890 --> 00:25:40.830

Jacob Vela: And our area around our folks on this is on building more flexibility and how districts can use the funds right now there's a

159

00:25:41.370 --> 00:25:49.500

Jacob Vela: limit on how much of those funds can be used by districts developed partnerships with CEOs or community based organizations.

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00:25:49.860 --> 00:25:57.930

Jacob Vela: To better and more effectively meet the needs of students to get to support them academically and socially, emotionally to get back on track in their learning.

161

00:25:58.620 --> 00:26:09.420

Jacob Vela: Trajectory so we want to provide more flexibility to allow greater ability for districts to really form these effective partnerships with local organizations to meet student needs.

162

00:26:11.460 --> 00:26:23.280

Jacob Vela: And our final area of focus in this priority area is around transition from punitive measures to more supportive measures of students for students as they

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00:26:25.320 --> 00:26:33.210

Jacob Vela: Are in the kickoff setting so disproportionality and discipline and other punitive approaches in the K 12 setting.

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00:26:33.660 --> 00:26:41.550

Jacob Vela: And just personally impact students of color, especially when including the presence and use of sorrows or school resource officers and school buildings.

00:26:42.060 --> 00:26:55.290

Jacob Vela: On. So this is around in the key to setting on creating more supportive measures such as Positive Behavior Interventions use our practices to keep students in the school building and engaged.

166

00:26:56.250 --> 00:27:11.160

Jacob Vela: In schools and then this kind of just ties into creating safe and supportive learning environments for our students. And the more we do that, the less need on or reason that would be for punitive approaches to be employed.

167

00:27:14.070 --> 00:27:24.540

Jacob Vela: And our next area of focus is around resourcing and funding and schools so establishing equitable resourcing structures centered on student needs right now. A lot of our

168

00:27:25.170 --> 00:27:41.070

Jacob Vela: Ways and free fund schools is not necessarily on student need it's on other factors such as broad student enrollment or the property value of the certain districts. That's when most significant factors analysis is cooler funded right now.

169

00:27:42.210 --> 00:27:54.090

Jacob Vela: So we just want to make sure that schools and students are resource to me they're both academic and non academic needs as this pendant cuz I'm exhausted existing in equities and

00:27:55.710 --> 00:28:01.530

Jacob Vela: The disparate ways different students have fared and been served by the system.

171

00:28:02.790 --> 00:28:15.060

Jacob Vela: Where we want to make sure that schools are supported on so they could provide those additional support and resources to students to get us through this current crisis and overcome and

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00:28:16.170 --> 00:28:24.330

Jacob Vela: Grow active and clear because although the coven has had a specific impacts on schools on students and communities.

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00:28:25.110 --> 00:28:35.490

Jacob Vela: There's also been historical impacts on the same student groups and communities over time. So we have to look at historical context as well as how Kobe Kobe has impacted that

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00:28:35.910 --> 00:28:45.180

Jacob Vela: As we look to respond and support students in schools in this as we hopefully enter the final stages of this pandemic.

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00:28:47.100 --> 00:29:00.270

Jacob Vela: And another area focus is around local efforts assistance. This is a less known area of funding, this is kind of an add on to local Abby's two districts. We have a harder time raising local levies.

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00:29:01.860 --> 00:29:09.780

Jacob Vela: Districts, on average, with lower average property values and Richard districts are eligible for local assistance and right now it's purely based

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00:29:10.320 --> 00:29:33.510

Jacob Vela: On Property values, but we would like to see not obviously based on how you guys impact look at effort effort assistance, but it's important that student needs are also factored into it, the amount of students living in poverty, the amount of students on experience getting us proficiency.

178

00:29:35.100 --> 00:29:40.230

Jacob Vela: High mobile student populations, all of the student groups require additional resources and supports.

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00:29:41.040 --> 00:29:53.040

Jacob Vela: To provide them with academic experience that that they need. So the students need factors should be taken into account all our funding streams, including our local funding streams. So local efforts systems wouldn't be included in that

180

00:29:54.210 --> 00:30:02.790

Jacob Vela: And our third priority area within resourcing is around establishing new revenue sources to advance issue. So I put it on.

00:30:03.330 --> 00:30:10.470

Jacob Vela: There is a lot of improvements advocate for system needs and one of those. And some of that can be done with funding and

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00:30:11.310 --> 00:30:21.030

Jacob Vela: So we want to make sure, schools, a resource to provide mental supports the MTS interventions and other support for students and and teachers.

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00:30:21.630 --> 00:30:26.220

Jacob Vela: To create the educational experience that students deserve and that we need to provide for students.

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00:30:26.880 --> 00:30:35.010

Jacob Vela: But we can't. But we also have acknowledged that things that happen outside the K 12 system impact what happens and how education is

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00:30:35.490 --> 00:30:43.080

Jacob Vela: is experienced by students so food insecurity housing insecurity also impact the K 12 experience of students, so

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00:30:44.070 --> 00:30:59.070

Jacob Vela: In order to provide the the system of support in that sense for for students to succeed on, we need to keep a lot of programs whole outside the K 12 space. So I'm and arrive at that based on history.

187

00:31:00.120 --> 00:31:08.850

Jacob Vela: We feel that there needs to be a new revenue source that is created in order to sustain the well being of our communities.

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00:31:10.410 --> 00:31:18.000

Jacob Vela: And our final priority area is around the fists efficient and effective resources for students receiving special education services.

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00:31:18.780 --> 00:31:30.210

Jacob Vela: And this is a area that has thankfully gotten the greater attention, the last several years and wonder focus areas is around supporting the continued use to expand the adoption of inclusive practices.

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00:31:31.290 --> 00:31:40.590

Jacob Vela: For schools and districts. There's been working on last couple years around inclusive practices pilot project and other approaches to

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00:31:43.500 --> 00:31:47.070

Jacob Vela: thoughtfully and effectively implement more inclusive approaches to education.

00:31:47.580 --> 00:31:54.240

Jacob Vela: Washington State has one of the highest rate of excluding students with disabilities from a general education setting. So we're trying to

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00:31:54.750 --> 00:31:59.220

Jacob Vela: Create the support technical systems and structures for districts

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00:31:59.730 --> 00:32:10.800

Jacob Vela: So they can be better position and more empowered to provide a better educational experience for students with disabilities. So this is trying to kind of build out that technical systems and and

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00:32:11.370 --> 00:32:29.670

Jacob Vela: massive increase adoption for for districts and our final area is around special funding for special education right now we don't provide enough resources for students with disabilities receiving special education services, and this has been borne out by

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00:32:32.430 --> 00:32:43.440

Jacob Vela: Studies on how much I'm schools fine use other funding sources to kind of backfill what they need to need for special education services.

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00:32:43.920 --> 00:32:56.640

Jacob Vela: So we need to resource districts inadequate way to provide the services to make sure the students on IPS get the resources and support that they need to access to education.

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00:32:57.630 --> 00:33:09.660

Jacob Vela: But another area is around what's often referred to as a funding the special education catch up to 13.5% cap so for those of folks who are not familiar with this.

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00:33:10.380 --> 00:33:24.480

Jacob Vela: Effectively, it means that if you have 100 students in district on and 15% of them are 15 students are receiving special education services. I just want to generate funding for 13.5% of the

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00:33:25.440 --> 00:33:33.750

Jacob Vela: Students so 13.5 of those 15 students will generate funding from the state with that one and a half student that is over that threshold.

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00:33:34.110 --> 00:33:47.220

Jacob Vela: Will not get any funding from the state, they'll still get services from the district still have an IP and the district was only to fulfill the obligation to that student, but the discipline, I get any additional funding to provide services and supports.

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00:33:48.330 --> 00:33:51.240

Jacob Vela: We find it a punitive approach to

00:33:52.770 --> 00:33:53.280

Jacob Vela: Trying to

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00:33:54.570 --> 00:34:02.370

Jacob Vela: Address costs of the system. So we want to make sure that the system that we have in place to support and find on student disabilities.

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00:34:02.970 --> 00:34:19.230

Jacob Vela: Covers the full cost of districts, so we don't receive the inequities in this ability to better serve and support students with disabilities. And those are our priorities for this upcoming 2021 listening session and I'll send it back to Eric

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00:34:19.500 --> 00:34:23.850

Arik Korman: Great, well thank you so much, Jacob. Thanks so much. Carry that's great perspective.

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00:34:24.120 --> 00:34:27.270

Arik Korman: If you want to see our legislative priorities. You can see them on our website.

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00:34:27.360 --> 00:34:36.420

Arik Korman: Education voters.org. All right, we have about 10 minutes for questions if you have a question, feel free to type it in the Q AMP a function at the bottom of your screen.

00:34:36.840 --> 00:34:52.470

Arik Korman: No question is too basic and we're going to start off with a question from carry on the structure of the legislature moving forward in this session. And the question is Carrie. Can you clarify what you mean by the House is limit of seven on the number of bills to be brought forward.

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00:34:54.300 --> 00:35:13.470

Carey Morris: So other states have been doing this for a while and just in their general legislative sessions but Washington State has never put a limit on the amount of bills that legislators can sponsor while that senate hasn't done that, you know, haven't given it a number that's really

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00:35:14.670 --> 00:35:27.180

Carey Morris: For members to really think hard before introducing team a bills, but the House has said limited to seven and those bills have to fit into the categories between the equity coven response.

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00:35:28.260 --> 00:35:41.280

Carey Morris: And some of the climate change work they've done. And to be honest, it's bill discouraging just putting the word equity on to some of these is legislation doesn't make them focused on equity.

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00:35:42.390 --> 00:35:57.930

Carey Morris: But it's, there's these are going to have to be really hard conversations with more people involved. And so I think what they're hoping is is that as each piece of

legislation comes through. We're looking through that equity lens and the right people are giving their

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00:35:59.010 --> 00:36:05.310

Carey Morris: Their experiences and their stories and their at the table. I mean, let's be honest with who was in the panel right now.

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00:36:05.820 --> 00:36:15.810

Carey Morris: We all have a heart in the right place. But we don't have the experience or the knowledge and a lot of these so the hope is every piece of legislation, the stakeholder is above and beyond what the normal has been

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00:36:16.350 --> 00:36:25.650

Arik Korman: Yeah, thank you very much for that. And yes, I do want to acknowledge that we do not have community members from black indigenous and and people of color on this panel.

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00:36:26.010 --> 00:36:35.040

Arik Korman: And moving forward in future legislative preview 11 hours like this I will be intentional about including that so thank you for the person who who mentioned that

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00:36:35.730 --> 00:36:49.020

Arik Korman: My next questions are about early learning. The first one is does high quality early childhood education include infants and toddlers and providing families access to high quality infant and toddler care.

00:36:52.530 --> 00:36:59.880

Jacob Vela: We believe it does on their across the system of early learning from from birth to pre K

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00:37:00.720 --> 00:37:08.160

Jacob Vela: Or to have you want to define it. I think it's important to maintain our current level of funding and eventually

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00:37:08.700 --> 00:37:24.180

Jacob Vela: Expand. It's a tight physical environment right now so expansions can be difficult in this in this current climate, we're in, but it's something that we we do support and we do think as part of a well funded and robust early learning system that we do need as a state.

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00:37:25.410 --> 00:37:26.520

Jacob Vela: Right, okay.

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00:37:26.970 --> 00:37:39.060

Arik Korman: And another question that's in the similar vein of early childhood education for early learning. Are you focused on he cap or the state's early childhood education in the systems program and childcare.

00:37:43.410 --> 00:37:51.510

Jacob Vela: We are engaging in both areas on we as I kind of mentioned that in the previous answer.

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00:37:52.530 --> 00:38:02.940

Jacob Vela: We want to make sure both are supported. It's important that we not only have access, but the shelter providers are provided with a wage that is like is

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00:38:03.840 --> 00:38:11.940

Jacob Vela: reflective of their value that they provided the community and they are supported in getting support centering they need to provide that the care.

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00:38:13.320 --> 00:38:22.710

Jacob Vela: And we have a long way to go, but I think we made some good progress in recent years, and we hope that is maintained and built upon on this year. And going forward, as well. Okay.

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00:38:22.740 --> 00:38:23.070

Great.

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00:38:24.570 --> 00:38:28.050

Arik Korman: Alright, there's a question that is can we contact you later with questions.

00:38:28.140 --> 00:38:35.370

Arik Korman: And the answer is yes, you can definitely contact us later the questions you can reach us either at info at education voters.org

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00:38:35.820 --> 00:38:42.810

Arik Korman: Or you can email me directly. Eric AR ik at education voters.org and we will definitely answer any questions you might have.

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00:38:43.440 --> 00:38:52.680

Arik Korman: The next question is about students supports. There was recently report that talked about the ratio of nurses to students, which reflected a deplorable situation.

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00:38:53.220 --> 00:39:00.090

Arik Korman: Any efforts on the part of love to champion the push for increased funding for the expansion of nursing staff as well as counselors.

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00:39:02.880 --> 00:39:16.410

Jacob Vela: That's a very good point. Um, I didn't really explicitly tackle this issue in my description of the of our priorities, but our first bullet point in that resourcing area is kind of getting at is, is getting at this

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00:39:17.100 --> 00:39:28.500

Jacob Vela: We have to support and staff schools in a way that we support students and all their needs from mental supports to academic supports counseling career counseling and other forms of counseling.

00:39:29.220 --> 00:39:48.570

Jacob Vela: Nurses as well school psychologists, all these are integral and central and healthy and was supported school. So we do definitely support better staffing on support for for schools, especially high need schools on that need additional support and resources.

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00:39:49.590 --> 00:39:51.360

Jacob Vela: To support their students.

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00:39:53.040 --> 00:39:53.790

Arik Korman: Great, thank you.

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00:39:54.240 --> 00:39:57.690

Arik Korman: This is a question about a bill that has been proposed.

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00:39:57.750 --> 00:40:08.880

Arik Korman: And carry you would likely have information on this. The question is, do you think senator mullets proposed bill on getting kids back to school will be seriously considered or past

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00:40:11.250 --> 00:40:16.530

Arik Korman: And I'll add that love has been an ally of Senator molded, we appreciate the work that he's done over the years.

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00:40:17.940 --> 00:40:19.140

Carey Morris: I think any when

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00:40:20.400 --> 00:40:36.000

Carey Morris: When and how our students get back into the classrooms is fairly complex. We are a local control state our districts have the final say on this. I think there will be a lot of conversations on this issue about

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00:40:37.650 --> 00:40:46.530

Carey Morris: What is the formula that is safe and when and at what age as we start putting kids back into the classroom. So will it pass. I

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00:40:47.970 --> 00:40:55.410

Carey Morris: I do not. I never kind of make I don't have that crystal ball, but I do know that this is going to be a topic of conversation.

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00:40:57.480 --> 00:41:09.150

Carey Morris: Because it should be as it should be, as we kind of we do that balance between what's best for the students and their health and it goes back to the nurses issue as well. It's hard to send them back and a pandemic when we don't have nurses and all the school so

00:41:10.170 --> 00:41:15.000

Arik Korman: Yeah, that makes perfect sense. Alright, the next question is about unfunded mandates.

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00:41:15.360 --> 00:41:27.300

Arik Korman: School districts are often faced with unfunded mandates which disrupt the focus and often reduced funding for other needed programs and supports will league of education voters address unfunded mandates for school districts

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00:41:30.240 --> 00:41:37.470

Jacob Vela: That's a good question and a challenge. I mean, districts have faced. I think that's as we look to

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00:41:38.130 --> 00:41:53.580

Jacob Vela: As policies proposed and it goes to the process. I think it's critical to see how it's going to be, whether it's funded and supported I think historically and especially in recent years, we've asked a lot of districts and schools and

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00:41:54.780 --> 00:42:02.400

Jacob Vela: Around new requirements or new expectations of existing staff without additional resources that the training without the support

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00:42:02.910 --> 00:42:09.750

Jacob Vela: And you can't really do that and make that ask of districts and schools and expect that policy to succeed in the way people envision it to

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00:42:10.710 --> 00:42:19.290

Jacob Vela: There's a lot of need out there and there's a lot of additional support and resourcing that schools need um but that's not going to happen in this policy is actually

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00:42:20.490 --> 00:42:33.900

Jacob Vela: supported financially in a way that could actually make it succeed. Um, I think we have to be very thoughtful and intentional about how we spend resources, but we also have to be very intentional and thoughtful about our

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00:42:35.730 --> 00:42:48.300

Jacob Vela: Laws that legislation that gets passed on and it's realistic impact if it's not, if it's not funded and resource on they districts can't pull a rabbit. Can we expect to pull a rabbit out of a hat.

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00:42:49.140 --> 00:43:02.130

Jacob Vela: They have to be put in position to succeed. And I think oftentimes with some policies they are not. And that's something that we definitely do keep an eye on and definitely do advocate for to make sure that new policies are resource in effective and adequate were

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00:43:03.480 --> 00:43:03.750

Jacob Vela: Great.

00:43:03.780 --> 00:43:12.570

Arik Korman: Thank you very much. So this is a question about revenue, a new source of funding has been mentioned what and where exactly is that funding coming from

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00:43:19.050 --> 00:43:30.300

Carey Morris: The revenue clutch. It's always there's there's quite a few options. It's the back we always hear there's the, the carbon tax be here that when we hear the capital gains. There's some on insurance. I mean,

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00:43:31.050 --> 00:43:39.900

Carey Morris: There's, I am not a fiscal person in the sense that I understand our taxing system and all the ways and all the loopholes and where we need to close.

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00:43:41.490 --> 00:43:47.940

Carey Morris: I know that we have a really regressive system that needs to be looked at and ways to do that so that

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00:43:49.230 --> 00:43:56.040

Carey Morris: I push on to those people in the Office of Financial Management who oversee our tax structure and our and our

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00:43:57.270 --> 00:44:10.170

Carey Morris: And our revenue sources are in the governor's policy shop and they work with the rest of the legislators to see what the doable set what we can get done, but there are quite a few

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00:44:11.220 --> 00:44:16.500

Carey Morris: floating out there and they have been for several years, the same ones so

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00:44:17.430 --> 00:44:23.790

Carey Morris: There it comes down to where the votes are on what issues and you will see that there are some legislators who

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00:44:24.090 --> 00:44:33.240

Carey Morris: Are really firm on. I don't want to do anything unless we're going to do everything. Let's take it all apart and rebuild it. So it's a fair system. There are some that

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00:44:33.690 --> 00:44:47.010

Carey Morris: Are looking at pretty narrow what they would vote for. So I think that our legislative leadership in the House and Senate need to look at the proposals and look at where their members are and what they might have votes for to pass something through

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00:44:48.420 --> 00:44:50.160

Arik Korman: Yeah, thanks so much carry appreciate that.

00:44:50.520 --> 00:44:50.820

Arik Korman: Okay.

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00:44:50.850 --> 00:44:53.370

Arik Korman: Hard fun it is. It definitely is.

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00:44:53.970 --> 00:45:06.180

Arik Korman: Alright, we have time for about one more question, and this is also related to revenue, since there is likely to be no budget cuts. How confident are you of pushing your agenda moving forward this year.

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00:45:08.460 --> 00:45:17.790

Carey Morris: Yeah, I don't even know if I would tie that to revenue. I think that's more of just how is this session going to work, how, how much is going to get done when

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00:45:18.450 --> 00:45:26.460

Carey Morris: You know, we have small a shorter amount of time to actually have committee hearings, it's going to take longer to get just kind of the logistics through

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00:45:27.660 --> 00:45:41.280

Carey Morris: I think if we all come out of this hole that's great if we can build on it. I think we'll see some growth in the childcare area and early learning. I think we'll see some growth really looking at the social, emotional

00:45:42.660 --> 00:45:44.760

Carey Morris: needs of our students, but

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00:45:46.080 --> 00:45:50.580

Carey Morris: I don't think it's a revenue. It's more of just this virtual world and what they can get done.

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00:45:52.590 --> 00:45:52.860

Arik Korman: Right.

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00:45:52.890 --> 00:45:58.800

Jacob Vela: Yeah, I'm nothing is ever easy legislatively. Um, it's always harder than you expect.

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00:45:59.850 --> 00:46:00.840

Jacob Vela: But I think

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00:46:02.340 --> 00:46:08.010

Jacob Vela: There will be some tough decisions because however much we might may or may not be in the hole.

00:46:08.490 --> 00:46:17.400

Jacob Vela: There is a lot more need and we do have resources right now. So there is going to be a lot of tough decisions to make, with healthcare crisis housing crisis.

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00:46:17.850 --> 00:46:30.450

Jacob Vela: With a lot of the economic on pain. A lot of folks are feeling right now there's a lot of need out there. So there's a lot of competing priorities on in addition to keep up education. So the legislature does nothing difficult choices to make. Um, but

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00:46:31.650 --> 00:46:36.330

Jacob Vela: So it's not going to be easy. There's not not convenient, easy, easy wins. However, big or small.

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00:46:37.650 --> 00:46:38.130

Jacob Vela: But

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00:46:39.180 --> 00:46:46.200

Jacob Vela: We're not in a difficult position as many other states are, thankfully. But the challenge is still there and

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00:46:46.260 --> 00:46:52.590

Carey Morris: I know we're ready. But I think we will see a build of an education on our funding formulas. It's based on enrollment.

00:46:52.950 --> 00:47:02.940

Carey Morris: And I think is we're seeing some data from the early learning system that 40% of the kids might not be coming back for a while. If we see something similar. We want to make sure that our

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00:47:03.330 --> 00:47:09.030

Carey Morris: Our schools are held harmless, they're not going to be losing funding. During this time, and that's really, you know,

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00:47:10.320 --> 00:47:16.710

Carey Morris: That, I think, has been a fear, both on the transportation, but also in our, our core services. So I think we'll see a bill on that this year.

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00:47:18.000 --> 00:47:24.630

Arik Korman: Great, well thank you so much, Carey Morris and Jacob Vela, and thanks to all of you for participating and submitting questions.

291

00:47:24.930 --> 00:47:31.050

Arik Korman: Again, if you have questions that weren't answered, feel free to email us info@educationvoters.org

292

00:47:31.650 --> 00:47:43.380

Arik Korman: Our next webinar will take place Thursday, January 21 we're partnering with OneAmerica to spotlight their new report, Our Rising Voices: A call to action to support multilingual students.

293

00:47:43.890 --> 00:47:56.130

Arik Korman: The registration link will be on our website education voters.org just click on events than lunchtime webinars. I'll also share the 11 our information in the follow up email that will arrive in your inbox in about 24 hours.

294

00:47:56.790 --> 00:48:05.490

Arik Korman: Thank you to each of you for joining us today. If you have additional questions or comments please send them to me at arik@educationvoters.org

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00:48:06.060 --> 00:48:13.500

Arik Korman: A recording of today's presentation will be available on our website education voters.org and will be sent to you in the follow up email.

296

00:48:14.070 --> 00:48:17.520

Arik Korman: Please feel free to share the recording with your friends and colleagues.

297

00:48:17.850 --> 00:48:24.300

Arik Korman: If you'd like to learn more about League of Education Voters or support our work, please visit our website educationvoters.org

00:48:24.960 --> 00:48:35.040

Arik Korman: Thank you again for attending each one of us has the right to feel safe and valued together will fight for a world in which true educational and economic equity exists.

299

00:48:35.340 --> 00:48:44.130

Arik Korman: We look forward to seeing you in future webinars Jacob and Carey, thank you again for joining us and sharing your information and perspective. We really, really appreciate it.