



SISTER DISTRICT  
PROJECT

# Pinky Vargas

WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 42

## SISTER DISTRICT POLICY SCORECARD

This candidate has pledged commitment to the following statements:

- ✓ We must protect a **woman's right to choose** the health care and reproductive services she wants and needs.
- ✓ We need to protect and expand our **social safety net**, not dismantle it.
- ✓ We should pursue **common-sense gun safety** policies, consistent with the Second Amendment and local community standards and needs, which vary from community to community.
- ✓ Climate change is real and we need to **protect our environment**.



## TIMELINE & VOTER INFO

**Election Day:** ALL voting is done by mail in Washington. Ballots may be mailed from October 29-November 6, 2018

### Last day to register:

Online: October 8

In person: October 29

**Vote by mail:** All voting is done by mail in Washington state.

**Nested Congressional District:** 1; 2

## BACKGROUND

Pinky grew up in a farmhouse without running water until she was 10 years, and is passionate about the challenges of rural communities. She currently serves as a member of the Bellingham City Council from Ward 4, having been elected in 2013 and 2017. In 2016 she was chosen by her colleagues to preside at council meetings.

She also works as a senior business accounts manager at Puget Sound Energy, helping local businesses save energy, improve efficiency and reduce costs. She was awarded PSE's Energy Award in 2017 and nominated for Whatcom Professional Woman of the Year.

Pinky's priorities include clean air and water, good schools with high-quality teachers, and a fiscally responsible state budget that "closes tax loopholes and benefits for special interests rather than increasing the tax burden on middle class families."

## ABOUT THE OPPONENT

Incumbent State Senator Doug Ericksen has had declining vote shares every year since he was first elected to the State Senate in 2010 - this year in the primary he only garnered 45%. In 2016, Hillary Clinton, Patty Murray and Jay Inslee all won the district.

Since his last election, Sen. Ericksen hosted Donald Trump at the local county fairground, costing local taxpayers thousand of dollars in unpaid law enforcement bills, co-chaired the Trump campaign, joined the Trump transition team and even worked in the Trump administration in Washington DC, skipping hundreds of votes and even missing meetings of the committee he chaired. In Olympia, he is best known for killing environmental legislation, being one of the biggest recipients of food, drink and golf games from lobbyists among all legislators, and voting for the largest property tax increase in state history while staunchly defending lower taxes for major corporate special interests.

Just this year, over the objections of the US State Department, he traveled to Cambodia to lend an air of legitimacy to their sham elections. According to Human Rights Watch, "Their presence here shows they hold in contempt the principles of free and fair elections, an independent media, and a neutral election administration—because all those things are lacking in Hun Sen's Cambodia.

### **ABOUT THE DISTRICT**

As of the 2010 census, a total of 146,619 civilians reside within the 1,460.2 square miles of Washington's forty-second state senate district. The population per square mile is 129. The median age of these residents is 37.7. 84% White, 3.6% Native American, 13% - Other/mixed.

### **WHY IS THIS RACE IMPORTANT?**

In 2017, Sister District helped Manka Dhingra flip her Washington State Senate seat, gaining Democratic control of both houses of the Washington State Legislature. Democrats now hold a 50-48 majority in the House of Representatives and a 25-24 majority in the Senate, with one "Independent Democrat" senator caucusing with the Republicans.

Democrats hold a majority in the Washington legislature by a razor thin margin, and protecting that majority by winning futher seats is critical to maintaining the "blue wall" of the West Coast.

### **WASHINGTON LEGISLATURE**

The Washington State Legislature is a bicameral body, composed of the lower Washington House

of Representatives, with 98 representatives, and the upper Washington State Senate, with 49 senators. Members are not subject to term limits. Washington has 49 legislative districts, each with two representatives and one senator. Terms are two years and four years, respectively.

Each legislative cycle is two years long. The regular session begins on the second Monday in January. In even-numbered years, such as 2018, it is 60 days. Extraordinary (or special) sessions are limited to 30 days, and can be called by the governor to address specific issues, usually the budget. Bills introduced in an odd-numbered year carry over to the even-numbered year and can be reintroduced at their last place in the process.

### **CANDIDATE LINKS**

SDP ActBlue link: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/sdp-wa-vargas>

Website: <http://votepinkyvargas.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VotePinkyVargas>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/VotePinkyVargas>