

Supporting a Ban of Heroin Injection Sites in Snohomish County

WHEREAS opioid addiction has reached crisis level in the United States and has adversely impacted families and communities.

WHEREAS the only community in North America to have a Heroin Injection Site continues to experience increased drug addiction and the negative impacts of opioid related drug use, overdose deaths and crime;

WHEREAS the only community in North America to have a Heroin Injection Site has experienced increased negative impacts on their communities in terms of safety and quality of life;

WHEREAS Washington State's Snohomish County has experienced some of the largest adverse impacts on citizens from this opioid epidemic compared to other communities in Washington State;

WHEREAS the Snohomish County Sheriff's Department reports that:

- 18% of all heroin-related deaths in Washington State occur in Snohomish County
- from 2011 - 2013 approximately 1 out of every 5 heroin deaths in Washington State occurred in Snohomish County
- in 2013 alone, heroin and prescription opioid overdoses represented 2 out of 3 of the 130 accidental overdose deaths in the county;

WHEREAS the Snohomish County Sheriff has acknowledged that the opioid crisis is the worst he has seen in his 30 plus years in law enforcement;

WHEREAS the Snohomish County Sheriff has stated that "Creating a site for people to do more of it is going in the wrong direction.";

WHEREAS the Snohomish County Sheriff has met with county council members and asked them to outright ban Heroin Injection Sites;

WHEREAS many Snohomish County cities have placed bans on Heroin Injection Sites in efforts to support and protect healthy and safe communities;

WHEREAS partial solutions have contributed to addressing the opioid crisis in Snohomish County but do not comprehensively mitigate the adverse impact of opioid addiction in the community;

WHEREAS Heroin Injection Sites have not proven to reduce opioid addiction;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Snohomish County Republicans believe that providing a resource for addicts and non addicts to practice illegal drug use will only add to the opioid epidemic problem;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Snohomish County Republicans support a Ban of Heroin Injection Sites to ensure that all citizens in Snohomish County have safe communities in which to live, work and play; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Snohomish County Republicans support the Snohomish County Council's current Ban of Heroin Injection Sites for Snohomish County; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Snohomish County Republicans urges municipalities and elected officials represent the best interest of their constituents by permanently banning Heroin Injection Sites in an effort to support safe and quality communities in Snohomish County.

Submitted by Jeff Scherrer to the Snohomish County Republican Party 3/10/18

Adopted by the Snohomish County Republican Central Committee Meeting on 3/10/2018
Debra Blodgett, Chair