

# RECOVERING AND REBUILDING THE SOUTH SOUND

## Five Urgent Steps for our Communities and Local Economies

“ **The COVID-19 global pandemic has thrown our nation into a public health crisis, exposed weaknesses in our disease prevention preparedness and increased the financial challenges faced by everyday Americans. The Trump Administration has failed us. Instead of first helping the workers and small businesses who most need it, they are bailing out the largest corporations and prioritizing wealthy campaign donors.**

**THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE.** “

- Marilyn Strickland



Marilyn Strickland, Democrat for Washington's 10th District

Recovering and rebuilding after COVID-19 is the challenge of our times. And with a President whose top priority is his television ratings, we need other national leaders to rise to the occasion.

With so many lost lives, lost businesses and lost jobs, I know from my experience as Mayor of Tacoma that the road ahead will be difficult.

But I also know what's possible precisely because of my time as a local government leader.

When I was first elected, our city was battered by the Great Recession. Small businesses were struggling, and only fifty-five percent of our high-schoolers were graduating. Private investors were passing on Tacoma, and basic city services were being neglected. But growing up in our community, I knew things could be better with a city government that focused on a few priorities -- creating an economy with high-quality jobs, new investments in transportation, and better schools.

The result: Tacoma attracted over \$1 billion of investment for housing, retail and office space, invested over \$500 million in transit and transportation, and revitalized the port. And we did it the right way by raising the minimum wage, passing paid family leave, implementing a city-wide Climate Action Plan, and launching an award-winning summer jobs program that played a role in raising the graduation rate to over ninety percent.

My experience rebuilding and revitalizing Tacoma taught me the skills and policy making to lead in a crisis. Now I'm running for Congress, because we need that same leadership in Washington D.C.

The global pandemic has devastated our health and our economy faster than imaginable. If we don't take bold action, the effects of this health crisis will be with us for generations.

Here are 5 things we must prioritize right now to get back on track:

- 1 Follow the science with a focus on public health and worker safety.** We need more testing. Common-sense solutions like increasing testing, producing more tests and making more PPE available to our first responders, healthcare and front line workers must be our top priorities. We must mandate that health insurance companies cover patient costs that have resulted from COVID-19, and make testing free of charge.
- 2 Provide the basics.** Families are struggling and the pandemic is creating a hunger crisis with nearly 20% of children lacking sufficient food. We need a national plan to increase access to unemployment benefits, paid family leave, and expand funding to programs that address food insecurity like SNAP.
- 3 Support for local small businesses.** In the 10th Congressional District, small businesses employ the most workers, and are the backbone of our local economy. They must get the support they need to put people back to work. This means everything from more PPE to keep their workers and customers safe, to more money from federal loans. The relief packages that Congress passes must get to the small businesses that need it the most.
- 4 Made in the South Sound.** COVID-19 shows us that we should manufacture and mass produce medical supplies like PPE and essential, life-saving drugs in the U.S. There is no better place to do it than here at home in the South Sound. We have Ports, rail, the facilities, and the talent to expand manufacturing to put people back to work and rebuild our middle class with good jobs.
- 5 Hold the Trump Administration accountable.** Once again, President Trump is showing who his real friends are by bailing out Wall Street while mom and pop stores on main street are hurting. Congress has an obligation to ensure that taxpayer dollars are going back to the people who need it most.



# MARILYN STRICKLAND

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