2012 ELECTION
A vote for our future

“His first opportunity to get involved in politics started as a parent in the Selah School District to fight for education. … If you compare Jay Inslee to the other candidate who is running, he understands people. He understands fighting for and allowing us to preserve our collective bargaining rights. … Who’s going to be able to protect our bargaining rights and be able to allow us to fight for kids?”

Kendell Millbauer
Middle school social studies teacher
Richland
I am an optimist. I think I inherited my glass-half-full tendencies alongside the educator gene that runs in my family. And I have to say, it’s come in handy lately. I’ve been working in public education for 42 years, and I’ve never experienced a year quite like this — the pace has accelerated, the demands are high, the issues relentless.

My optimism may be genetic, but you as members of WEA have reinforced it this fall, by attending building meetings, and volunteering to knock on doors and make phone calls to support pro-public education candidates.

This election is perhaps the most important one we’ve faced in Washington state in decades. Look at the issues coming at us in 2013 and you begin to understand why: McCleary and education funding, class size, compensation, evaluation, health care and benefits.

The McCleary decision: It’s simple. The state has until 2018 to fully fund the schools. As the state takes on more education funding, it will have a greater say in education policy. And you can bet that education policy (reform) and funding will be linked together and be more influenced by Olympia than ever before.

Meaning money and reforms are linked, and how those play forward relies on the people we elect. We need people at the table who know us, understand us and respect us. This issue of We 2.0 describes our endorsements of the people we know to be friends of public education and who will look out for us on these and other issues such as health care and our right to bargain.

We care so much about this election because of what happens after it. That’s why it is critical for us to be a strong and organized union. Building meetings ensure that the strength of our message can be matched by the power of our voices speaking together. That’s why you’ll be seeing more of them in the months ahead. Attend. Learn. Contribute. Act. It is the optimistic thing to do.
Jay Inslee supports a continued voice for educators and middle class workers by preserving contract rights and collective bargaining. He applauds existing innovative schools in Washington and believes these programs should be expanded. He does not advocate for charter schools. He says higher standards should apply not just to classroom educators, but all partners. He wants to focus more resources on early learning programs and on high-needs schools to boost graduation rates to 90 percent by 2020. He would increase state funding by getting the state economy back on track and closing tax loopholes.

And these are just a few of the reasons why Inslee is the right – and only – choice for governor of Washington.
As the political season nears the election-day finish line, we often get questions from members about why we endorse who we endorse. Some people think we only endorse Democrats. Some are unhappy that the Association’s views don’t match their personal views. Given that this issue of We 2.0 is devoted to political endorsements, we thought it would be a good time to provide a refresher about how the Association chooses the candidates it supports.

WEA makes its political endorsements through WEA-PAC. The process begins before the primary election, when we send all candidates for office a written questionnaire on issues important to education and the union. We ask about their positions on topics likely to be addressed in upcoming legislative sessions, which include education funding, collective bargaining rights, teacher pay and evaluations. The questions only touch on education or union issues.

After receiving the survey responses, WEA invites viable candidates to participate in a follow up interview. Councils interview legislative candidates in their districts and forward their recommendations to the WEA-PAC Management Board. The WEA-PAC Board — made up of teachers, ESP members, Democrats, Republicans and members from both sides of the mountains — conducts interviews for statewide offices, and makes the final endorsement for all candidates.

It sounds simple, though the process can take many weeks to involve members and candidates from across the state. In addition to the logistics involved, there is often much discussion and debate at the local and state level, but in the end, WEA-PAC strives to ensure that its recommendations are for candidates with strong public education credentials who can represent our interests in Olympia.

Hans Dunshee
LD 44, House Pos. 1

Hans Dunshee will continue to be a strong voice for public education and a strong economy. This last legislative session Dunshee voted and supported educators on key measures, including reforms of the state pension plan, education funding and school employee benefits.

“Throughout the years, Hans has supported a sensible approach to education reform, while helping fight the attacks against public education and teachers,” says Glacier Peak High School math teacher Kevin Judkins. “He has consistently supported legislation to rein in state testing, lower class size and fully fund education.”

Continuing budget stress requires commitment to reform and willingness to work across the aisle, Dunshee says. Collective bargaining, he notes, is “akin to the constitutional right of free speech.”

“If we believe that education matters, as we tell students, then we ought to compensate for it,” says Dunshee, who chairs the House Capital Budget Committee.

Mike Wilson
History teacher
Cascade High School
Everett

“When people ask me if I am voting for Hans in this election I can’t wait to say yes, because I know how Hans supported the teachers last year during one of the most negative legislative sessions ever, and for the last 16 years in our state Legislature. He has a long track record for helping public education in countless ways and is seen as a very positive and influential force in Olympia.”

Truman Middle School’s Nanci Cornell volunteers at a recent phone bank at Tacoma Education Association.
In the 1st Legislative District, which straddles King and Snohomish counties, longtime incumbent Sen. Rosemary McAuliffe is the only choice to thwart efforts to privatize our public schools and to eliminate collective bargaining.

McAuliffe is one of the strongest supporters of public education and authentic education reform in Olympia. That’s why she has been targeted by challengers who are funded by millionaire education reform groups. Her opponents have spent heavily to try to unseat her.

“My main focus during my time in the Senate has been on education reform and providing all children the opportunity to learn,” McAuliffe says.

McAuliffe has consistently stood for real reforms:
- Full funding of public education
- Innovative schools
- New evaluation system for principals and teachers — based on our work, not on student test scores
- Smaller class sizes
- Professional development and collaboration time for teachers and support staff
- Programs for struggling learners

She has consistently advocated for investing taxpayer dollars and district resources closest to students and educators.

“We must stop cuts to K-12 education and higher education,” she says. “I believe to achieve this we must continue to work to identify or create a dedicated revenue source to fully fund basic education.”

Janice Rendahl, Cottage Lake Elementary School, Woodinville

“I am happy to support Rosemary McAuliffe for re-election to our state Senate. I have seen that she is willing to do the hard work of listening, thinking and making decisions about complex education issues. She has proven herself as an advocate for children in our state, from our preschoolers through our college students, and I appreciate her experience, her thoughtfulness and her tenacity.”

Colin Horak, English teacher, Franklin Pierce High School

“Dawn is a champion of public education and a huge supporter of collective bargaining rights.”

Dawn Morrell
LD 25, House Pos. 1

30 … The number of votes that separated Dawn Morrell from her opponent in the last election. Thirty votes kept a pro-collective bargaining rights, pro-student, pro-public schools, former legislator from representing the 25th Legislative District. Dawn Morrell is running once more.

Educators must have representatives who actually represent their values and views in Olympia. “I have always opposed charter schools as a voter and a legislator,” Morrell says. “I believe the way to a good education is to stand behind our public schools and teachers.

Educators must retain collective bargaining rights. Morrell is a member of the Washington State Nurses Association and has served on collective bargaining teams. She helped form the labor caucus in Olympia. “I believe frontline practitioners know what is happening in their work place and their voices are important.”

Students must have adequately funded schools. “I don’t believe that the public really values education as much as they seem to say ... People pay more for their Mariners season tickets than they do local taxes for education ... I have seen the (McCleary decision) plan for public education and know the cost of that plan.”
Bud Sizemore
LD 47, House Pos. 1

Funding education will be Bud Sizemore’s top priority when he represents the 47th Legislative District next session.

The former Covington city councilman supports a dedicated revenue system for public education, including exploring additional forms of revenue so that the state can meet its constitutional mandate to fully fund public schools.

“I think we need to make systematic reforms to our revenue system, close tax loopholes and try to utilize every tool in our toolbox to meet our obligation without raising taxes,” Sizemore says. “However, if we want to abide by the court’s ruling and adequately fund education, we cannot rule out any option, including raising revenue. To do so would be unfair to our children.

A union firefighter, Sizemore understands the importance of collective bargaining and has fought to protect workers’ rights throughout his professional career.

He says he’ll look to WEA members as experts in education. He opposes charter schools and vouchers as unnecessary experiments.

“Last Saturday, I chose to doorbell for Bud Sizemore because his genuine interest in making things better for students in our classrooms.”

Monica Stonier
LD 17, House Pos. 1

Monica Stonier is one of us … it’s that simple.

Stonier is a teacher and coach in the Evergreen School District. She has been active in her union as a building representative, and she has been a champion in advocating for fully funded public schools.

Stonier has a vastly different perspective than her opponent when it comes to public education, collective bargaining and reforming the state’s education system. Her opponent, a Ridgefield School Board member, stalled bargaining for more than a year while classified members worked without a contract. She also voted to “bust” the school cooks union.

Stonier, on the other hand, will fight for educators’ rights as employees: “The right to collectively bargain is crucial for local districts to be able to pair their local resources and needs with those from the state.”

Stonier opposes charter schools and the dollars they rob from our students, and rejects merit pay as an option for compensating educators. There have been stories of failed charter schools, and she worries the state would have to pay for charter schools and not have adequate ways to monitor them. There are ways, she says, to turn communities and schools around without opening the door to charter schools.

“We’re so proud that our colleague, middle school teacher and EEA building rep Monica Stonier, is running for the state Legislature. There are no educators in the Legislature right now! No one there really understands how the decisions they make play out in our classrooms and schools. We are signing up our co-workers to doorbell with us at our building meetings so we can make sure we have the voice of one of our own in Olympia!”

Hillery Berteaux
Sumner Education Association president

“I had an opportunity to meet Bud Sizemore at a phone banking event. I was impressed by his genuine interest in making things better for students in our classrooms.”

Norma LaChine
Math teacher
Frontier Middle School
Evergreen School District
Vancouver

“Last Saturday, I chose to doorbell for Bud Sizemore because his genuine interest in making things better for students in our classrooms.”
Millions on charter schools for a tiny fraction of kids — at the expense of all

I-1240 diverts millions of tax dollars into privately operated, but publicly funded, charter schools. We should be taking care of the schools we have — giving all our children a chance to succeed — not taking funding away from them to pay for unfunded, unproven experiments for a lucky few.

Drains $100 million from existing public schools

I-1240 doesn’t pay for itself. The new charter school bureaucracy alone will cost taxpayers $3 million.

To fund these charter schools, I-1240 diverts money from existing public schools — up to $100 million a year — funneling those tax dollars into schools that are unaccountable to local voters.

Again?

Washington voters have already voted down charter schools three times — and for good reason: The most extensive study done so far, conducted by Stanford University, shows that only 17 percent of charters perform better than traditional public schools, while twice that many perform at a lower level.

Lacks real oversight and accountability

I-1240 authorizes out-of-state, private operators to run these charter schools — unaccountable to local voters. I-1240’s new state bureaucracy will be run by political appointees with no accountability to local voters.

The Supreme Court got it right — fund quality education for every Washington child

Last January, in the “McCleary” decision, the state Supreme Court ruled that Washington has failed to adequately fund basic education — its paramount duty in our state constitution. It confirmed what parents, teachers and community leaders have been saying for years: we’re not living up to our responsibility to our kids. We must fix our broken education funding system with solutions proven to work in the classroom — like reducing class sizes, restoring art, music and enrichment programs, and paying teachers better — so all children have a chance to succeed.

Please join the Washington State PTA, the League of Women Voters, the NAACP, principals, school boards and directors and many, many more education and community organizations across the state in voting “NO” on I-1240.

Where are the Republican endorsements?

Our 80,000 members hail from different places, backgrounds, interests and experiences. We know that our WEA-PAC candidate endorsements won’t reflect the thinking of each member we serve, which is why the endorsement process strives to focus on educational and union issues, not partisan politics.

While it is true that most of our endorsements do end up supporting Democrats, we look forward to conversations with Republicans. In recent years, we have worked harder with councils in Republican districts to engage candidates in the endorsement process.

This year, WEA-PAC has endorsed roughly a dozen Republicans. Common themes we hear from candidates who earn our endorsement include support for funding education/the McCleary decision and support of our collective bargaining rights, two of the most fundamentally important issues for WEA members.

WEA-Retired member Ken Mortland said it best when he put it this way, “In 42 years of classroom and union work and 20 years on the board of Mainstream Republicans of Washington, I’ve yet to see a reason why education should be a partisan issue. I’ve worked to create a place in WEA for Republican educators and I’ve worked to create a better understanding of educators among Republicans. I applaud WEA-PAC’s efforts to reach out to Republican candidates and I urge Republicans to develop an open dialogue with WEA. There’s never been a greater need for both.”
2012 WEA-PAC recommended candidates for state Legislature

**LD SENATE**
1. Rosemary McAuliffe
   Pos. 1: Derek Stanford
   Pos. 2: Luis Moscoso
2. Bruce Lachney
   Pos. 1: Gary Alexander
3. Andy Billig
   Pos. 1: Marcus Riccelli
   Pos. 2: Timm Ormsby
4. 
   Pos. 2: Amy Biviano
5. Mark Mullet
   Pos. 2: Denny Dellwo
6. 
   Pos. 2: Shelly Short
   Pos. 2: Joel Kretz
7. 
   Pos. 1: Jay Clough
   Pos. 2: Larry Haler
8. 
   Pos. 1: Susan Fagan
   Pos. 2: Joe Schmick
9. Mary Margaret Haugen
   Pos. 2: Tom Rigs
10. Bob Hasegawa
    Pos. 1: Zack Hudgins
    Pos. 2: Steve Bergquist
11. Tim Probst
    Pos. 1: Monica Stonier
    Pos. 2: Paul Harris
12. Ann Rivers
    Pos. 2: Brian Blake
13. 
    Pos. 1: Richard DeBolt
14. 
    Pos. 1: Marko Liias
15. Karen Fraser
    Pos. 1: Chris Reykdal
    Pos. 2: Sam Hunt
16. Christine Rolpes
    Pos. 1: Sherry Appleton
    Pos. 2: Drew Hansen
17. Jim Hargrove
    Pos. 1: Kevin Van De Wege
    Pos. 2: Steve Tharinger
18. Bruce Dammeier
    Pos. 1: Dawn Morrell
    Pos. 2: Bill Hilton
19. 
    Pos. 1: Karin Ashabranner
    Pos. 2: Larry Seaquist
20. Jeannie Darnielle
    Pos. 1: Laurie Jinkins
    Pos. 2: Lauren Walker

**LD SENATE**
28. Yoshie Wong
    Pos. 1: Eric Choiniere
    Pos. 2: Tami Green
29. 
    Pos. 2: Steve Kirby
30. 
    Pos. 1: Roger Flygare
    Pos. 2: Roger Freeman
31. 
    Pos. 1: Cathy Dahlquist
    Pos. 2: Christopher Hurst
32. 
    Pos. 2: Cindy Ryu
    Pos. 2: Ruth Kagi
33. 
    Pos. 1: Tina Orwall
    Pos. 2: Dave Upthegrove
34. 
    Pos. 1: Eileen Cody
    Pos. 2: Joe Fitgibbon
35. 
    Pos. 1: Kathy Haight
    Pos. 2: Lynda Ring-Erickson
36. 
    Pos. 2: Reuben Carlyle
    Pos. 2: Noel Frame
37. 
    Pos. 1: Sharon Tomiko Santos
38. 
    Pos. 1: John McCoy
    Pos. 2: Mike Sells
39. 
    Pos. 1: Kristine Lytton
40. 
    Pos. 1: Marcie Maxwell
41. 
    Pos. 1: Natalie McClendon
    Pos. 2: Matthew Krogh
42. 
    Pos. 1: Jamie Pedersen
    Pos. 2: Frank Chopp
43. 
    Pos. 1: Hans Dunshee
    Pos. 2: Mike Hope
44. 
    Pos. 1: Roger Goodman
    Pos. 2: Larry Springer
45. 
    Pos. 1: Gerry Pollet
    Pos. 2: Jessyn Farrell
46. 
    Pos. 1: Bud Sizemore
    Pos. 2: Pat Sullivan
47. 
    Pos. 1: Ross Hunter
    Pos. 2: Cyrus Habib
48. 
    Pos. 1: Sharon Wylie
    Pos. 2: Jim Moeller

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Statewide Offices / Measures

**STATEWIDE OFFICES**
- Governor: Jay Inslee
- Attorney General: Bob Ferguson
- Commissioner of Public Lands: Peter Goldmark
- Insurance Commissioner: Mike Kreidler
- Secretary of State: Kim Wyman
- State Treasurer: Jim McIntire
- State Auditor: Troy Kelley
- Superintendent of Public Instruction: Randy Dorn

**STATE SUPREME COURT**
- Justice Position 2: Susan Owens
- Justice Position 8: Steven Gonzalez
- Justice Position 9: Sheryl McCloud

**STATEWIDE BALLOT MEASURES**
- Referendum 74: APPROVE Marriage equality for same-sex couples
- Initiative 1185: NO Eyman’s latest, tax and fees increases imposed by state government
- Initiative 1240: NO Creation of a public charter school system