

## Class Size Counts

WEA members worked hard to get I-1351 on the ballot; now it's time to ask friends, family and neighbors to vote YES on the ballot and YES to smaller class sizes.



# Full election mode and more



We've moved from back-to-school season into full swing election mode and, accordingly, this is our 2014 voters' guide. Our priority is on reducing class sizes with Initiative 1351. We also are focused on electing pro-education legislative candidates, like teachers and WEA members Monica Stonier and Mike Wilson. You can read about them and other candidates in this issue.



I hope you will use *We 2.0* as a resource when you sit down with your ballot and prepare to vote. Be sure to check out the full list of WEA-PAC- endorsed candidates on page 6.

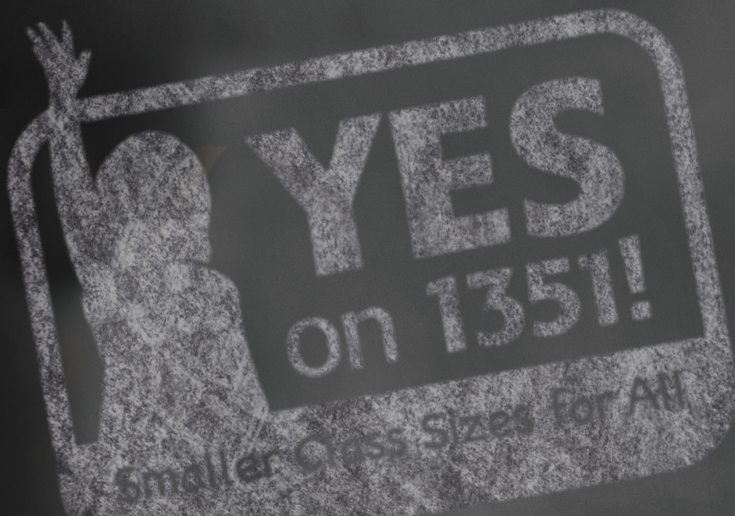


I'm proud of the work our union has done so far to support I-1351, and with just a few more weeks before the election, I encourage you to remind your friends and family to vote for smaller classes.

This time of year may seem like we are singularly focused on campaigns and elections, and in many ways that is true, at least in our externally focused work. But, just like our members who have many interests, WEA also pursues many work items. I hear from members every day who care about a range of issues from pay to professional development. We are working hard to support your needs and I look forward to sharing more about those efforts in the months to come.



**Kim Mead**  
WEA President



## contents

### 4 Yes on I-1351

Voters have an opportunity to reduce K-12 class sizes across Washington, a decision that will benefit students for years to come

### 6 Our picks for Nov. 4

Legislative and statewide candidates, and ballot measures recommended by WEA-PAC, and federal candidates recommended by NEA's Fund for Children and Public Education

### 8 WE Are WEA

Meet Murray Campbell, proud WEA member



*"I really think class size is the only conversation worth having ... day to day that is what matters."*

**Paige Marken**  
First-grade teacher  
Mount Vernon EA



Community  
Security

Peace of Mind  
Fairness

Professional  
Development

Bargaining Voice  
Empowerment  
Political Action Strength

*Jenny Rossetto, Tacoma teacher and proud WEA member*

## You're not alone in your classroom.

Some days it may feel like you have to do it all. But as part of an 83,000-member union, you have benefits that help take the worries away so you can focus on what really matters: Helping students learn. The WEA is not some distant group. It's us. All of us. Standing together to share quality professional development ... to negotiate tough but fair contracts ... to ensure our administrators follow those agreements ... to offer you dollar-stretching discounts ... and to ensure your voice is heard among the politicians and community leaders who want to shape our public schools.

Together, WE Are WEA.



[WashingtonEA.org](http://WashingtonEA.org)



# Initiative 1351 will reduce class sizes – and benefit students



**A**s educators, we have a historic opportunity this fall, one that will benefit Washington students for years to come.

By passing Initiative 1351, we can reduce K-12 class sizes across Washington. Of all the factors that help students learn and succeed in school, one matters most: personal attention from caring adults.

Currently, Washington's class sizes rank 47th out of 50 states. Our students deserve better, says WEA President Kim Mead.

"As educators, we care about each and every student who crosses through the classroom door, and we want to make sure we can get to each one of them and help them be successful," Mead says. "That's why I-1351 is so important."

Mead says when talking with friends or family members about I-1351, these points resonate:

- Washington ranks 47th out of 50 states in class size.
- Smaller class sizes are especially important for subjects like math and science, which require a lot of individual attention. Small classes make it easier for kids to get interested and engaged in these subjects, which will help prepare them for success in our high-tech economy.
- Smaller class sizes help all students, but especially those who are struggling, by giving them the individual attention they need to get back on track.

Under I-1351, K-3 class sizes will average 17 students, with an average of 25 students in grades 4-12. It also provides additional resources for students in high-poverty schools.

I-1351 will be phased in over four years, giving school districts time to plan and prepare. The class-size reductions called for in I-1351 are the same reductions recommended by the Quality Education Council, the Legislature's own bipartisan panel established in response to the McCleary school funding case. More than 100 school principals have endorsed I-1351, as have many superintendents and school board members.



Here are three easy actions you can take to ensure I-1351 passes:

- Mark your ballot YES on I-1351 and mail or drop it off ASAP (on or before Nov. 4). *See sample ballot on page 6.*
- Ask your friends, family and neighbors to vote YES on I-1351.
- Connect with pro-education voters by signing up for an I-1351 phone bank in your area.

You'll find a list of I-1351 phone banks at [www.OurVoiceWashingtonEA.org](http://www.OurVoiceWashingtonEA.org), in addition to I-1351 posters, postcards, stickers and Facebook icons that you can download, plus your very own personalized WEA voters guide.

*Photo above: It's a simple idea: small class sizes make it easier for students to get the attention they need — and deserve — to succeed in school. I-1351 benefits students in every grade, and from all backgrounds, across the state.*



# Electing educators to serve in Olympia is crucial

**M**onica Stonier is a teacher in the Evergreen School District near Vancouver. She's a WEA member and a mom.

And as a state House representative from the 17th Legislative District, Stonier serves as vice-chair of the House Education Committee.

"Monica is a great teacher and a strong advocate for kids and public schools, both in the classroom and in Olympia," says Michele Robertson, also an Evergreen teacher. "We need to make sure she is re-elected."

Currently in her first term, Stonier is in a tough race — she won by less than 150 votes two years ago. That means support from other educators is critical. Hundreds of WEA members are doorbelling and calling voters on her behalf, and her WEA-PAC endorsement shows voters she's the pro-education candidate.

Mike Wilson is an Everett teacher and has taught in Snohomish County for 35 years. Now he's running for an open House seat in the 44th Legislative District. Local WEA members have been doorbelling for Wilson since September.

"We need more teachers in the Legislature. We need that voice in Olympia. A lot of people down there think they

"I am a professional development provider in my district and understand its importance and what it takes to be effective."

**Monica Stonier, LD 17, House Pos. 1.**

"Rarely have I seen legislators get together and create a better educational system from a position of never having spent a day in the classroom."

**Mike Wilson, LD 44, House Pos. 2.**

know what students need, but Mike is an educator — and he really does know what they need," says Theresa Sheckells, a Monroe teacher who volunteered for Wilson's campaign.

Jenny O'Hare, another Monroe teacher, said "As a teacher, Mike knows what teachers and students are dealing with in the classroom — and how we can meet students' needs better with smaller class sizes."

Other WEA-PAC-endorsed educators running for the state Legislature include incumbents Rep. Steve Bergquist in the Renton area, Rep. Lillian Ortiz-Self in Edmonds, Rep. Mike Sells in Everett and Rep. Bob McCaslin in Spokane. Other teachers running for the Legislature include Mike Sando

in Enumclaw and Charles Jensen in Sedro-Woolley, and Judy Arbogast in the Gig Harbor-Port Orchard area.

WEA-PAC, which is the political action group for WEA members, has recommended nearly 100 candidates in the Nov. 4 election based on their support for public education and union rights. Find the complete list of recommended candidates at [www.OurVoiceWashingtonEA.org](http://www.OurVoiceWashingtonEA.org), including a personalized voters' guide.



"I-1351 makes sense. Smaller class sizes will make all the difference in the day-to-day classroom success of our students. I-1351 also means more education support professionals to help students achieve their goals. This initiative is great for kids!"

**Irene Oda, bus driver**  
*Educational Support Personnel of Clover Park*



"I know from personal experience the difference between a class of 24 and a class of 34. Because I've taught both, I know with a smaller class size you can reach the kids at a personal level. You have more opportunities to give to that student."

**Norma LaChine**  
*Middle school science teacher, Evergreen EA*



## Visit [OurVoiceWashingtonEA.org](http://OurVoiceWashingtonEA.org) before you vote

[OurVoiceWashingtonEA.org](http://OurVoiceWashingtonEA.org) is your online source for election information and tools. There, you'll find your own personalized WEA voters guide. Just type in your address, and you'll get a complete list of the pro-education candidates in your community, including state Supreme Court, Congress and the Legislature. There's also a list of all the WEA-PAC-endorsed candidates running for office in Washington. [OurVoiceWashingtonEA.org](http://OurVoiceWashingtonEA.org) also has a list of I-1351 phone bank opportunities, Facebook icons, posters, postcards, fact sheets and stickers, all of which you can download and use. Check it out!

# 2014 WEA Voters' Guide

## INITIATIVES

Initiative 1351: Yes

## U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CD 1: Suzan DelBene (D)

CD 6: Derek Kilmer (D)

CD 7: Jim McDermott (D)

CD 8: Dave Reichert (R)

CD 9: Adam Smith (D)

CD 10: Denny Heck (D)

## WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE

### LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

LD 1, House Pos. 1: Derek Stanford (D)

LD 1, House Pos. 2: Luis Moscoso (D)

LD 3, House Pos. 1: Marcus Riccelli (D)

LD 3, House Pos. 2: Timm Ormsby (D)

LD 4, House Pos. 1: Robert (Bob) McCaslin (R)

LD 4, House Pos. 2: Josh Arritola (R)

LD 5, House Pos. 1: Essie Hicks (D)

LD 6, Senate: Rich Cowan (D)

LD 6, House Pos. 1: Kevin Parker (R)

LD 7, Senate: Brian Dansel (R)

LD 10, House Pos. 2: David Hayes (R)

LD 11, House Pos. 1: Zack Hudgins (D)

 LD 11, House Pos. 2: Steve Bergquist (D)

LD 12, House Pos. 1: Cary Condotta (R)

LD 12, House Pos. 2: Brad Hawkins (R)

LD 15, Senate: Gabriel Muñoz (D)

 LD 17, House Pos. 1: Monica Stonier (D)

LD 17, House Pos. 2: Paul Harris (R)

LD 18, House Pos. 1: Maureen Winningham (D)

LD 18, House Pos. 2: Mike Briggs (D)

LD 19, House Pos. 2: Brian Blake (D)

LD 21, Senate: Marko Liias (D)

LD 21, House Pos. 1: Strom Peterson (D)

 LD 21, House Pos. 2: Lillian Ortiz-Self (D)

LD 22, House Pos. 1: Chris Reykdal (D)

LD 22, House Pos. 2: Sam Hunt (D)

LD 23, House Pos. 1: Sherry Appleton (D)

LD 23, House Pos. 2: Drew Hansen (D)

LD 24, House Pos. 1: Kevin Van De Wege (D)

LD 24, House Pos. 2: Steve Tharinger (D)

LD 25, House Pos. 1: Dawn Morrell (D)

LD 25, House Pos. 2: Hans Zeiger (R)

 LD 26, Senate: Judy Arbogast (D)

LD 26, House Pos. 1: Nathan Schlicher (D)

LD 26, House Pos. 2: Larry Seaquist (D)

LD 27, House Pos. 1: Laurie Jenkins (D)

LD 27, House Pos. 2: Jake Fey (D)

LD 28, Senate: Tami Green (D)

LD 28, House Pos. 2: Christine Kilduff (D)

LD 29, Senate: Steve Conway (D)

LD 29, House Pos. 1: David Sawyer (D)

LD 29, House Pos. 2: Steve Kirby (D)

LD 30, Senate: Shari Song (D)

LD 30, House Pos. 1: Linda Kochmar (R)

LD 30, House Pos. 2: Roger Freeman (D)

LD 31, Senate: Pam Roach (R)

 LD 31, House Pos. 1: Mike Sando (D)

LD 31, House Pos. 2: Chris Hurst (D)

LD 32, Senate: Maralyn Chase (D)

LD 32, House Pos. 1: Cindy Ryu (D)

LD 32, House Pos. 2: Ruth Kagi (D)

LD 33, Senate: Karen Keiser (D)

LD 33, House Pos. 1: Tina Orwall (D)

LD 33, House Pos. 2: Mia Gregerson (D)

LD 34, Senate: Sharon Nelson (D)

LD 34, House Pos. 2: Joe Fitzgibbon (D)

LD 35, Senate: Irene Bowling (D)

LD 35, House Pos. 1: Kathy Haigh (D)

LD 36, Senate: Jeanne Kohl-Welles (D)

LD 36, House Pos. 1: Gael Tarleton (D)

LD 37, Senate: Pramila Jayapal (D)

LD 37, House Pos. 1: Sharon Tomiko Santos (D)

LD 38, Senate: John McCoy (D)

LD 38, House Pos. 1: June Robinson (D)

 LD 38, House Pos. 2: Mike Sells (D)

 LD 39, House Pos. 2: Charles Jensen (D)

LD 42, Senate: Seth Fleetwood (D)

LD 42, House Pos. 1: Satpal Sidhu (D)

LD 42, House Pos. 2: Joy Monjure (D)

LD 43, Senate: Jamie Pedersen (D)

LD 43, House Pos. 1: Brady Walkinshaw (D)

LD 43, House Pos. 2: Frank Chopp (D)

LD 44, House Pos. 1: Hans Dunshee (D)

 LD 44, House Pos. 2: Mike Wilson (D)

LD 45, Senate: Matt Isenhower (D)

LD 45, House Pos. 1: Roger Goodman (D)

LD 46, Senate: David Frockt (D)

LD 46, House Pos. 1: Gerry Pollet (D)

LD 46, House Pos. 2: Jessyn Farrell (D)

LD 47, House Pos. 1: Chris Barringer (D)

LD 47, House Pos. 2: Pat Sullivan (D)

LD 48, Senate: Cyrus Habib (D)

LD 48, House Pos. 1: Ross Hunter (D)

LD 48, House Pos. 2: Joan McBride (D)

LD 49, House Pos. 1: Sharon Wylie (D)

LD 49, House Pos. 2: Jim Moeller (D)

## SUPREME COURT

Supreme Court, Pos. 1:

Justice Mary Yu

Supreme Court, Pos. 3:

Justice Mary Fairhurst

Supreme Court, Pos. 4:

Justice Charles Johnson

Supreme Court, Pos. 7:

Justice Debra Stephens

 = WEA Educators



## More from members on I-1351

"In my building we currently have students up to 32 in a class trying to learn from one teacher. All 32 of those students, all of them have different needs. For a teacher to be able to give every student what they need through differentiation, class sizes need to be at a reasonable size so that every student can learn."



*Takiyah Jackson  
Counselor, Seattle EA*

"I will be talking to lots of people — family, neighbors and friends — letting them know how important it is to have low class sizes. I'll also be making phone calls to all of the residents I can to let them know that low class size is a priority in our schools, and that we need to make it a reality for the whole state."

*Ashley Young, first-grade teacher  
Mount Vernon EA*



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## I Am WEA

"They say I am a dying breed. A dinosaur. I believe in a hard day's work for an honest day's pay.

And I'm very passionate about what I do.

I do make schools better and safer and cleaner, so our children can learn.

I make a difference in our students' lives.

And I am a very proud member of my union, the Washington Education Association."

Murray Campbell  
Building engineer  
and custodian  
Davis High School, Yakima



*Murray Campbell*



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