

Washington Education Association Political Action Committee  
2010 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire



Candidate: ALLAN JENSEN

Office Sought: 42<sup>nd</sup> DIST House - Position 1

These are my official positions in seeking state office.

Candidate Signature:

Date: 4/2/10

*Candidates: Please return your completed and signed questionnaire to your local WEA council office.*

**WEA believes any alternative compensation system must be subject to local collective bargaining, fully funded, available to all and based on objective criteria.**

**Do you support or oppose WEA's position? Support\_\_\_\_\_ Oppose\_\_\_\_\_**

**Please explain your position:**

**WEA opposes differentiated pay based on the subject taught.**

**Do you support or oppose WEA's position? Support\_\_\_\_\_ Oppose\_\_\_\_\_**

**Please explain your position:**

**WEA supports the current practice of providing salary bonuses and other support for teachers who achieve certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.**

**Do you support or oppose WEA's position? Support\_\_\_\_\_ Oppose\_\_\_\_\_**

**Please explain your position:**

**Washington educators currently are required to work until they reach age 65 to qualify for their normal retirement pension, regardless of the number of years they serve. Some educators must work more than 40 years before earning their normal pension. WEA supports legislation that allows educators to retire with their full normal pension based on the number of years they work rather than requiring them to reach an arbitrary age of eligibility.**

**Do you support or oppose WEA's position? Support\_\_\_\_\_ Oppose\_\_\_\_\_**

**Please explain your position:**

**The 2009 Legislature passed ESHB 2261, which changes the definition of basic education and makes other changes to the K-12 school system. WEA members called ESHB 2261 a "false promise" because it ignored the current underfunding of basic education and did not include new funding. WEA members believe the state Legislature should keep its promise and fully fund the programs called for by this bill, which is estimated to cost an additional \$3 billion annually.**

**Do you support or oppose WEA's position? Support\_\_\_\_\_ Oppose\_\_\_\_\_**

**Please explain your position:**

**Commonsense Education Reform and Accountability**

In the 2010 legislative session, WEA helped draft and pass SB 6696, a research-based approach to improving student achievement. This legislation was forged between the Governor, the Legislature and education stakeholders, and it represents a major step forward in reforming teacher evaluation, assistance to struggling schools and teacher certification. SB 6696 establishes statewide criteria for teacher evaluations and allows local school districts and education associations to develop their own local evaluation systems. The legislation was tailored to the needs and conditions of Washington State and will allow our state to compete for federal Race to the Top funding.

**WEA supports SB 6696 as passed by the Legislature in 2010 and opposes further changes to the law.**

**Do you support or oppose WEA's position? Support\_\_\_\_\_ Oppose\_\_\_\_\_**

**Please explain your position:**

**WEA opposes linking teacher evaluations to student test scores.**

**Do you support or oppose WEA's position? Support\_\_\_\_\_ Oppose\_\_\_\_\_**

**Please explain your position:**

**ESHB 2261 established the Quality Education Council (QEC) and individual workgroups on issues such as educator compensation. WEA believes the QEC and related workgroups should solicit the professional input and judgment of public education employees. Any final recommendations should be based on sound research and the expertise of Washington educators.**

**Do you support or oppose WEA's position? Support\_\_\_\_\_ Oppose\_\_\_\_\_**

**Please explain your position:**

**WEA opposes linking the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) to student graduation. (Passing the HSPE is currently a graduation requirement.)**

**Do you support or oppose WEA's position? Support\_\_\_\_\_ Oppose\_\_\_\_\_**

**Please explain your position:**

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WEA supports current law (SHB 2363), which reinstates the annual COLA for educators in the 2011-12 school year and incrementally restores the lost COLA percentages over four years.

Do you support or oppose WEA's position? Support

Providing adequate salaries for our state's educators ensures both a higher quality workforce and a happier workforce. I will support legislation that promotes quality educators to staff our outstanding public school and higher education institutions.

WEA supports a minimum starting salary of \$45,000 for teachers and other certificated education employees. We also believe education support professionals deserve at least a living wage as starting pay, and we support salary increases that exceed the cost of living for higher education faculty and staff.

Do you support or oppose WEA's position? Support

I support increased funding for educators. The main problem facing this increase is stabilizing our budget to ensure funding is available not only for increased salaries, but also for stabilized tuition levels and updated learning materials. This is also why I support initiatives like 1098; to help increase state revenue so we may accomplish all of these goals.

The 2009 Legislature passed ESHB 2261, which sets out to "enhance the current salary allocation model: through deliberation and input from "teachers, administrators and classified employees. WEA member's oppose tying teachers pay, in whole or in part, to student achievement or test scores.

Do you support or oppose WEA's position? Support

I also agree that teachers should not be a race-to-top of student performance. An educator's primary goal should be the instruction of all students and not simply focusing on the improvement of the lowest scoring individuals.

WEA believes any alternative compensation system must be subject to local collective bargaining, fully funded, available to all and based on objective criteria

Do you support or oppose WEA's position? Support

We should treat all educators, regardless of employment location or institution, the same as far as bargaining, funding, and compensation opportunities.

WEA opposes differentiated pay based on subject taught.

Do you support or oppose WEA's position? Support

All approved subject matter is important to a well educated student. We should not place priorities on subjects, but rather an equal importance on them all to provide balanced learning for every student.

WEA supports the current practice of providing salary bonuses and other support for teachers who achieve certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Do you support or oppose WEA's position? Support

It is important to reeducate our teachers for many reasons, including updated subject matter, teaching methods, and introducing new courses when appropriate. I feel the added incentive of salary and support is appropriate to maintaining updated training and educated teachers.

Washington educators currently are required to work until they reach age 65 to qualify for their normal retirement pensions, regardless of the number of years they serve. Some educators must work more than 40 years before earning their normal pension. WEA supports legislation that allows educators to retire with their full normal pension based on the number of years they work rather than requiring them to reach an arbitrary age of eligibility.

Do you support or oppose WEA's position? Oppose

We should update the retirement qualifications to reduce the age requirement from the current 65 to something lower, but creating a system based only on time in service would impact not only the teachers retirement system, but other state systems.

The 2009 Legislature passed ESBH 2261, which changes the definition of basic education and makes other changes to K-12 school system. WEA members called ESHB 2261 a "false promise" because it ignored the current under funding of basic education and did not include new funding. WEA members believe the state legislature should keep its promise and fully fund the programs called for by this bill, which is estimated to cost an additional \$3 billion annually.

Do you support or oppose WEA's position? Support

I do support the position of the WEA, but we must recognize the delicate balance between maintaining all areas of the budget and our educational goals. What we require to accomplish all of these tasks is increased revenue, which will only come with progressive tax reform and increased efficiency with all educational institutions.

The 2010 Legislature passed SHB 2776, which promises to reduce the average K-3 class size to no more than 17 students per teacher by the 2017-18 school year. Washington currently has some of the nation's largest average class sizes, and the Legislature recently eliminated Initiative 728 class size reduction funding. WEA believes the Legislature must restore funding for Initiative 728 and provide the additional state funding to reduce class sizes as promised by SHB 2776.

Do you support or oppose WEA's position? Support

Again, I agree with the WEA position. The only way to accomplish this is with effective budgeting and stimulated revenue.

WEA supports SB 6696 as passed by the Legislature in 2010 and opposes further changes in the law.

Do you support or oppose WEA's position? Support

I believe each area of our state requires a unique approach to evaluation and I support a localized approach rather than a statewide umbrella of evaluation.

WEA opposes linking teacher evaluations to student test scores.

Do you support or oppose WEA's position? Support

Teachers should be accountable for their students learning, but to hold them accountable for student test performance sets a precedent of over-preparation for testing, and less on long-term subject development and recollection.

ESHB 2261 established the Quality Education Council (QEC) and individual workgroups on issues such as educator compensation. WEA believes the QEC and related workgroups should solicit the professional input and judgment of public education employees. Any final recommendations should be based on sound research and the expertise of Washington educators.

Do you support or oppose WEA's position? Support

The educators themselves have firsthand experience in the classroom and with the education materials. I feel direct input from our educators is the most effective way to accurately analyze any changes required to educational legislation.

WEA opposes linking the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) to student graduation. (Passing the HSPE is currently a graduation requirement)

Do you support or oppose WEA's position? Support

I do think an evaluation of a student's cognitive understanding before graduation is important, but I do not agree that a standardized test is appropriate. I would support an exit exam if it was localized and approved by the individual educators within the school district it was implemented.

WEA supports workers' right to due process

Do you support or oppose WEA's position? Support

As a Washington State Labor Council endorsed candidate, I support any collective bargaining group and their rights to a collective bargaining process.

WEA supports the right of public school employees to engage in the political process, both individually and collectively.

Do you support or oppose WEA's position? Support

Being publicly funded, I feel public school employees deserve a voice in the political process.

WEA supports giving community and technical college faculty the right to bargain salaries at the local level, a right enjoyed by all other education union members in the state.

Do you support or oppose WEA's position? Support

I feel that all educators should enjoy the same rights and privileges as any other educator in the state.

#### Education Experience

Who was the most influential teacher you had in school and why? A chemistry teacher in high school, Nate Smothers. It was a subject that not only was I not very interested in, but had difficulty understanding the topic. He found ways to motivate my interest and took the time to make sure I understood the topic. As a result of this extra motivation, I was able to complete science classes in college.

#### Campaign Plan

My campaign has been given top priority by the House Democratic Campaign Committee. Along with the full access of the state's Democratic Party, I have been working closely with a successful, private campaign firm. A comprehensive doorbelling and fundraising plan has been completed. This included, but is not limited to candidate, campaign manager, and volunteer doorbelling blitzes (divided by precinct to ensure every doorbell is knocked at least once), high traffic sign location placement, candidate and volunteer phone banking for fundraising, persuasion calls, and get out to vote drives. The message plan includes emails blasts, primary and general mailings, radio/tv ads.

Endorsements – see attached list.

Candidate Biographical information – see attached resume



ENDORSEMENT LIST FOR AL JENSEN

Organizations:

Washington State Labor Council  
 Northwest Washington Central Labor Council  
 SEIU Local 925  
 Washington State Council Police and Sheriffs  
 (WACOPS)  
 Whatcom County Sheriffs Guild  
 Bellingham Police Guild  
 IAFF #106 Bellingham/Whatcom County  
 Firefighters  
 Washington State Public Employees Association  
 Northwest Washington Building and  
 Construction Trade Council

Barbra Cory – Former Whatcom County  
 Treasurer  
 Todd Ramsay – Chief of Police – Bellingham  
 Cliff Jennings – President Bellingham Police  
 Guild  
 Frank Morrow – Retired Whatcom County  
 Court Commissioner  
 Steve Lydolph – Chair of 42<sup>nd</sup> District  
 Democrats  
 David F Warren – President NW  
 Washington Central Labor Council  
 Craig Cole – Retired CEO Brown & Cole, Inc.  
 Chuck Eggart

Individuals:

Kelli Linville - 42<sup>nd</sup> District State Representative  
 Pat Jerns - 42<sup>nd</sup> District Senate Candidate  
 Dan Pike – Mayor City of Bellingham  
 Gary Jensen – Mayor City of Ferndale  
 John Perry – Mayor City of Everson  
 Tim Douglas – Former Mayor – City of  
 Bellingham  
 Gene Knutson – President Bellingham City  
 Council  
 Barry Buchanan – Bellingham City Council  
 Stan Snapp – Bellingham City Council  
 Mel Hansen – Ferndale City Council  
 Lousie Bourjson – Former Bellingham City  
 Council

Will Roehl  
 Ted Perry  
 Peggy Borgens  
 Inez Johnson  
 Rob Brandland  
 Don and Joy Keenen  
 Russ Gran  
 Adrienne Lederer  
 Jan LaVelle  
 Kenneth Ford  
 Beretlla Hansen  
 Lois Clement  
 J.K. Faulkner  
 Candy Ford



ENDORSEMENT LIST FOR AL JENSEN

Don Graham	Robert Wilson
Sherry Zeilstra	Vinnie O'Connor
John & Louise Greer	Brian Greenleaf
Maggie Hanson	Gary Jonson
Michale Kammerer	Gary Baker
Aileen Satushek	Jim & Jean Savidge
Melba Sunel	Rich Kittinger
James & Janlyne McDonald	Lori Province
Nancy Sherer	
Judy Buchanan	
Ethel Carpenter	
Gene & Hazel Montagne	
Gary & Carolyn Jonson	
Gordon Sullivan	
John & Sandi Bruton	
Willis Ziebell	
Brandon & Sandy Hall	
Joseph Leighton	
Charles & Julie Pruitt	
Chris Crow	
Dennis Angell	
Mary Bracken Marren	
Charlie Warren	
Dianne Blakesley	
Rachel Muñoz	
George Edwards	



**Allan L. Jensen**

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Ferndale, Washington 98248

Home Phone – (360)-384-5419

Cell Phone – (360)-739-1269

E-Mail – [asjen@comcast.net](mailto:asjen@comcast.net)

Married – 36 years

Wife- Sylvia R. Jensen

Two children – Son (deceased)

Daughter – married and living in Lynden

3 - Grandchildren

**EDUCATION:**

Graduated Ferndale High School – 1971

Hartford Community College

University of Maryland

**EMPLOYMENT:**

United States Air Force – 1972 – 1978

Honorable Discharge – Rank - Staff Sgt. (E-5)

Bellingham Police Department – 1978 to present

Patrol Officer

K-9 ( Patrol and Narcotics)

Narcotics – Northwest Regional Drug Task Force

Detective – Major Crimes Unit

Criminal Intelligence Unit



**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:**

Volunteer Firefighter – Whatcom County Fire District #7 – 20 years – retired 1998

Whatcom County Old Settlers Association Trustee – 26 years – Two terms as President

Ferndale Masonic Lodge

Whatcom Masonic Lodge

Nile Shrine

Northwest Shrine Club – Board of Directors and Two terms as President

4-H Leader

Washington State Council of Police and Sheriffs – Board of Directors – 9 years

Washington State Attorney Generals Gang Task Force

Member Christ Lutheran Church – two years on Church Council

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Volunteer – 15 years

Ferndale School District School Levy Committee

Ferndale Hot Air Balloon Festival Committee

Bellingham Police Association

Bellingham Police Guild

Bellingham City Club

**AWARDS:**

United States Air Force Commendation Metal

Thomas George / Man of the Year (Ferndale) – 1997

Bellingham Police Department Class 1 Commendation

ATF Honor Award