

Washington Education Association Political Action Committee
2010 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire



Candidate: Cindy Ryu

Office Sought: Washington State House of Representatives, District 32 *Pos. 1*

These are my official positions in seeking state office.

Candidate Signature: *Cindy Ryu*

Date: May 28, 2010

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

WEA-PAC 2010 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire

Washington Education Association members advocate for our students and the education profession. We have three legislative priorities:

- Education funding, including educator compensation
- Commonsense education reform and accountability
- Protecting workers' rights to organize and bargain collectively

Please indicate whether you support or oppose the following WEA positions, and explain why.

Education Funding, including educator compensation

Washington Education Association members believe the State of Washington must fulfill its paramount duty to amply fund our public schools.

The 2009 Legislature passed SHB 2363, which suspended the annual cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for education employees for two years. The COLAs were mandated by voter-approved Initiative 732. SHB 2363 requires the Legislature to reinstate educators' annual COLA in the 2011-12 school year AND incrementally restore the COLA percentage educators lost during the two-year suspension. After four years, educator salaries will be what they would have been without the suspension.

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 percentage over four years.

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

Please explain your position:

To ensure a quality education for all Washington State children, we must retain qualified and dedicated teachers who have accumulated experience. And we can do that by providing these teachers stable, living wage jobs.

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 Oppose

Please explain your position:

In order to attract highly-qualified young professionals into our public education system, we must ensure that they can commit to it as a long-term profession rather than a short-term career. Establishing a basic assurance of middle class pay stability is a good step in this direction.

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 members oppose tying teacher pay, in whole or in part, to student achievement or test scores.

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

Please explain your position:

It is inappropriate to impose the business model onto the work of a public education system. Children are not commodities, and teachers are not business managers. Such a test score-driven system only encourages perverse incentives – such as allowing more at-risk youth to drop out in order to artificially inflate test scores. Another unintended consequence is watering down of curriculum to the point of only “teaching to the test.”

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:

Many of these alternative compensation models will have a devastating effect to the institution of public education unless they are equitably administered and educators have a real say in shaping how they are carried out on the local level as true partners in our public education should.

WEA opposes differentiated pay based on the subject taught.

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

Please explain your position:

Differentiated pay is unfair not just to the teachers but also in terms of messages sent to our children. If we prove through differentiated pay based on the subject taught, that a particular discipline is more valuable or better than another – we prejudice groups of children with inclinations toward those subjects. A school’s curriculum should be determined by the needs of our children, not market forces.

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:

Anything we can do to make teaching a stable profession with professional growth opportunities will serve us well in the long run. Not only does it improve the quality of our teachers, but it will retain talented teachers for much longer by nurturing their talents and encouraging their professional growth and pride in their achievements.

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:

This is a common sense solution that would institute a stable, predictable mechanism for retirement planning by our professional educators. It will also encourage our gifted young people to consider teaching earlier in their careers. Other State workers and public servants are given retirement credit based on the numbers of years worked rather than requiring them to work until an arbitrary age of eligibility and our educators should be given the same consideration.

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:

Unfunded mandates not only harm our children through neglect; they undermine the very institution of public education itself. Whether it comes to fully funding the useful provisions of ESHB 2261, or sponsoring legislation that actually attends to the real problems, as a beneficiary of public education in Washington State, I will fight for a holistic approach that avoids careless shortcuts and provide access to excellent public education to all the children of Washington State.

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 Oppose

Please explain your position:

The people of Washington State approved I-728 in 2000 because they knew that our State and its children can only progress so far with an over-extended, under-funded educators and education system. We must honor the intent of the people and I will support all efforts to restore this funding and lower the average class size.

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:

SB 6696 strikes a good balance between consistency and autonomy. It was the product of a fair negotiation that included leading education stakeholders.

WEA opposes linking teacher evaluations to student test scores.

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

Please explain your position:

Children are more than test scores. While tests can be a useful measure, a tool, for teachers and decision-makers to determine the needs of students and schools, imposing an arbitrary bureaucratic model of this kind onto schools amounts to punishing less affluent communities for their lack of affluence. It is the role of the teachers to help children learn, become hard workers, creative thinkers and patriotic citizens: *those* criteria should be used to evaluate teachers, not a tool such as test scores.

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:

An education commission without teachers is like a school without children. The recommendations of these commissions will be completely out of touch with the realities of the education system unless they include the people who actually work with children on a day-to-day basis.

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:

The HSPE is simply WASL under a different name. It does nothing to solve the inequity between school districts, and does nothing to help teachers bring their struggling students up to speed.

Protecting Workers' Rights

WEA strongly supports the right of public education employees to organize, bargain collectively and engage in the political and legislative processes. WEA believes commonsense education reform can be developed effectively and collaboratively at the local level through the collective bargaining process. WEA supports legal protections against discrimination or intimidation for workers who exercise their right to organize.

WEA supports workers' rights to due process.

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

Please explain your position:

Political freedoms mean nothing unless they are also extended to the workplace. How can we impart the values of a democratic society onto our children if their educators are denied those very freedoms on the job?

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 Oppose

Please explain your position:

Our children learn from the examples of their role models. Public education is partially about turning our children into responsible members of a democratic society, and being a member of such a society includes participating in our 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 X Oppose

Please explain your position:

It's only fair to extend the same rights to one group of teachers that the rest currently enjoy.

Education Experience

Who was the most influential teacher you had in school and why?

I still remember Mrs. Noreen Higgins, English teacher at Centralia High School. First, she drove a blue Mustang students admired. Second, she talked WITH us, not AT us. She challenged us to think outside of the box and to look at language and books in a different way. Even though I don't remember specific methods or tools she taught, in contrast to Mr. Kimball who taught us writing methodology, I remember sitting in her classroom as if she were talking with me the whole time, even though the classroom was always full and attentive. She kept teaching and kept me thinking even after I graduated. When I went back to visit her, she asked new questions, such as whether I dreamt in English or in Korean.

Campaign Plans

Please describe your campaign plan for fundraising and doorbelling.

Please list endorsements by noteworthy elected officials.

Tell us about your plan for getting your message out to voters.

Our campaign is run just as grassroots as its politics. We will rely heavily on a strong field operation to directly contact at least 700 voters per week at the door, and 250 per week over the phone. We have established a \$150,000 fundraising goal for the entire campaign, of which we have already raised \$7,000 before a major fundraising event.

We have already received sole endorsements unanimously of: The King County Democratic Central Committee by acclamation, the Washington State Labor Council, M.L.King County Labor Council, Snohomish County Labor Council, OPEIU Local 8, the Sailors' Union of the Pacific and MAH Chapter of the Washington State Federation of Democratic Women. I am the 32nd Legislative District Democrats' nominee for State Representative Position 1.

Noteworthy elected officials who have endorsed:

Senator Margarita Prentice
 Senator Adam Kline
 Senator Paull Shin
 Senator Chris Marr
 Senator Claudia Kauffman
 Representative Bob Hasegawa
 Representative Sharon Tomiko Santos

In addition to a sound field, fundraising and endorsement strategy, we intend to establish 200,000 direct mail contacts with voters. Also planned are neighborhood coffees and actively participating in candidate forums.

CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

NAME Cindy Ryu

HOME STREET ADDRESS

CITY & ZIP Shoreline, 98177

CELL PHONE **HOME PHONE**

<i>Family Members</i>	<i>Relationship</i>	<i>If school age, what school do they attend?</i>
Cody Ryu	Husband	Attending Presbyterian Church USA theological seminary
Cody H. Ryu	Son	
Christine Ryu	Daughter	Shorewood High 2005; UW 2009
Candice Ryu	Daughter	Shorewood High 2003; UW 2006; Loyola Marymount 2008

CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

CAMPAIGN MANAGER Anders Ibsen
CAMPAIGN ADDRESS 15021 Aurora Ave N, Shoreline, WA 98133
CAMPAIGN E-MAIL FriendsForCindyRyu@yahoo.com
OFFICE PHONE
CAMPAIGN MGR CELL PHONE 253-370-0201

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

(Church, community, service, social, union, professional, etc.)

United Presbyterian Church of Seattle in Edmonds, WA – Member
UPCS Summer Food Program – Volunteer Grant Writer
Shoreline Chamber of Commerce - Board Member
Dollars for Scholars Shoreline Chamber of Commerce Chapter – President

EDUCATION

Centralia High School
Bachelor of Science in Microbiology, 1980 UW
Master of Business Administration with Concentration in Operations Management, 1983 UW

BRIEF EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Mayor of Shoreline 2008 - 2009
Councilmember, City of Shoreline 2006 - 2009 (Council-Manager Form of Government)
Insurance Agent, Allstate Insurance 1989 – 2007
Mgmt Sys Analyst/Records Mgr, Seattle Department of Construction and Land Use 1985-1989
Administrative Support Assistant, Seattle City Light 1984-1985
Customer Service, King County Medical Blue Shield 1983-1984
Medicaid Intake Officer, University Hospital 1981-1982
Admitting Officer, Harborview Medical Center 1980-1981