

Washington Education Association Political Action Committee
2010 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire



Candidate: Dawn Morrell

Office Sought: Legislative District 25, Seat 2

These are my official positions in seeking state office.

Candidate Signature: *Dawn Morrell*

Date: June 3, 2010

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

Washington Education Association Political Action Committee

2010 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate: Dawn Morrell

Office Sought: State Representative 25 Legislative District (Pos. 2)
These are my official positions in seeking state office.

Candidate Signature:

Date: 24 May 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 x Oppose

Please explain your position:

I am happy to support restoration of these lost dollars - we will, however, have even a larger deficit this year. I already voted to raise taxes to support education. If initiative 960 passes again, we will have great difficulty restoring these monies.

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:

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:

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: Of course I support full funding - I have worked diligently to find ways to cut the budget so we can get more to education. Without additional revenue we will not be able to fund education as we should. We must build a case to present to the public for more funding.

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:

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:

do not support linking

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:

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:

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 Oppose

Please explain your position:

Education Experience

Who was the most influential teacher you had in school and why? I grew up in Idaho where the community didn't really believe that girls should go to college. I had a high school biology teacher that encouraged me noting that I had an aptitude for science.

Campaign Information

Campaign Manager - Lona Watts - wattslb@uw.edu 353-278-0249

Campaign Address

2106 Manorwood Drive SE

Puyallup, Washington

Campaign Phone - 253-841-9385

Campaign e-mail - dawnmrn25@earthlink.net

Web Site - dawnmorrell.org

Biography

Representative Dawn Morrell has lived in Puyallup for 24 years with her husband Jim, a retired Air Force pilot. After retirement, Jim received his teaching certificate from Pacific Lutheran University and taught at Clover Park Technical College for 10 years. He is now a math and science tutor. Dawn and Jim have been married for 40 years and have two children and five grandchildren. Their two children, Jereme and Jameson, attended Puyallup public schools and graduated from Rogers High School.

Dawn was elected to represent the 25th Legislative District in the Washington State House of Representatives in November of 2002. Her legislative priorities include building a strong economy by investing in education, creating good paying jobs with benefits, and ensuring that affordable quality health care is available to every Washingtonian.

Dawn continues to work as a certified critical care Registered Nurse at Good Samaritan Hospital in Puyallup where she has worked since 1984.

EDUCATION

BS, Nursing (cum laude), University of Washington Tacoma
A.S., Nursing, Solano Community College
A.A., General Science, Solano Community College

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Critical Care Nurse, Good Samaritan Hospital, Puyallup
ASPO certified childbirth educator - taught in Hawaii, California and Washington
ICEA Hawaii and Washington State Coordinator

CURRENT LEGISLATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Leadership: Majority Caucus Chair
Health Care and Wellness Committee
Capital Budget
Health & Human Services Appropriations
Joint Select Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs
Long-Term Care Residential Facility Payment Systems, Joint Legislative Task Force
Rules Committee
State Council on Aging

PAST LEGISLATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Long Term Care Training Taskforce, Co-Chair
Nursing Home Financing Committee - Chair
Capital Budget Committee
Economic Development, Agriculture and Trade Committee
Joint Select Committee on Health Care Disparities, Co-Chair
Higher Education Committee
Higher Education Performance Contracts Work Group
Statewide Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education

STATE LEGISLATIVE SERVICE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

National Conference of State Legislatures
Health Policy Committee
Emerging Health Leaders Corps - Critical Health Areas Program
Helping Working Families in Tough Economic Times, Washington State Team
Leadership Institute-Inspiring Great Leaders, Class of 2003

Council of State Governments West
Western Legislative Academy, Class of 2003

Center for Policy Alternatives
Arthur Flemming Leadership Institute, Class of 2005

National Governor's Association
Policy Academy on Long-Term Care Preparedness-Washington State Team

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Pierce College Puyallup Nursing Program Advisory Board
Legislative & Health Policy Council, Washington State Nursing Association
Contract Negotiating Team, Washington State Nursing Association
Board of Directors, Pierce County Nursing Association

AWARDS AND HONORS

2010 Legislator of the Year - WAVA -Association of Career and Technical Administrators
2009 Legislator of the Year - Home Care Association of Washington
2008 Puyallup South Hill Rotary Community Vocational Service Award
2007 Outstanding Service to Veterans (Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee and Department of Veteran Affairs)
Certificate of Appreciation, Safe Streets Campaign
Honorary Recognition, National Association for Black Veterans
Legislator of the Year, Washington State Nurses Association
Legislator of the Year, Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts
Housing Hero, Washington Low Income Housing Alliance
Leader in the Struggle for Economic Justice, Washington State Jobs with Justice
State Legislator Award, Physical Therapy Association of Washington
Health Care Champion Award, Community Health Network of Washington
Certificate of Appreciation, Mobile Home Owners of America
Outstanding Nursing Alumni Award, University of Washington Tacoma
Honorary Recognition Award (RN Candidate), Washington State Nurses Association
Legislator Shine Award, Washington Citizen Action
Legislator of the Year, SEIU Local 775
Certificate of Appreciation, Pierce County Long-Term Care Ombudsman
Friend of Physical Therapy Award, Physical Therapy Association of Washington
Professional Nursing Excellence Award, Good Samaritan Community Healthcare