

Washington Education Association Political Action Committee
2010 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire



Candidate: Dean Willard

Office Sought: WA State House, District 5, Position 2

These are my official positions in seeking state office.

Candidate Signature:

Date: June 2, 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:

The Legislature should support fair educator compensation and the intent of the voters by restoring the lost COLA increase. Not only will I support the current law but I will also engage those who oppose it in a discussion of the serious negative consequences to our society if we continue down the path of punishing those who dedicate their careers to aiding our children in becoming successful.

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 X Oppose _____

Please explain your position:

A person who has chosen a career path in education should receive a fair, living wage. Too often educators are forced to leave the field for more lucrative careers in other industries. We have to maintain the ability to recruit and retain quality instructors and support professionals for our children and their future quality of life.

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 X Oppose _____

Please explain your position:

There are too many other factors that influence test scores for them to be an accurate measurement of teacher work performance and I believe over-emphasizing test scores has the potential to incentivize undesirable instructional practices.

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 X Oppose _____

Please explain your position:

Educator compensation issues should always be subject to collective bargaining rights.

WEA opposes differentiated pay based on the subject taught.

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

Please explain your position:

I'd welcome your suggestions on how to attract the best and brightest educators in each field of study, including math and science.

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 X Oppose _____

Please explain your position:

Teachers should be rewarded for taking the initiative to advance their professional skills, qualification and certifications.

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 X Oppose _____

Please explain your position:

Retirement pensions are an investment that educators have made in lieu of compensation. I am open to the adoption of creative compromises. For example eligibility rules that combine both age and years of service, such as a "rule of 85."

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 X Oppose

Please explain your position:

Fixing our revenue system so that we can fully fund basic education must be the top priority of the 2011 Legislative Session. I will continue to be skeptical of any reform proposals that distract from resolving the funding issue.

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 X Oppose

Please explain your position:

Funding must be the priority.

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 X Oppose

Please explain your position:

WEA should lead the discussion on how best to evaluate teacher performance.

WEA opposes linking teacher evaluations to student test scores.

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

Please explain your position:

There are too many factors beyond the control of the educator that impact student performance on standardized tests to use as an objective measure of teacher performance.

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 X Oppose

Please explain your position:

Washington educators should not just participate but lead this discussion.

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 X Oppose

Please explain your position:

We should be developing students' ability to analyze and think critically, to possess basic societal survival skills (personal finances, etc), an understanding of civics (i.e. voting), and be prepared to enter either the workforce or for further education. I'm not sure that a standardized test can accurately measure a student's ability in these areas.

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 X Oppose

Please explain your position:

I strongly support WEA's position. I personally supported the Worker Privacy Act as a citizen, and continue to advocate for worker protections against discrimination or intimidation for workers who exercise their right to organize. I also believe that the best practice for developing

any public policy (including "commonsense education reform") is to engage all stakeholders in the process. This would certainly include those whose responsibility it is to deliver services to the public (in this context, teachers).

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 X Oppose

Please explain your position:

The participation of educators in the political process is vital to the quality of our public education system.

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:

While I support local bargaining, I am concerned about the geographic compensation disparities that are sometimes created in this process that disadvantages some school districts' faculty and may disadvantage some colleges' faculty. I would welcome your suggestions on how we can maintain local bargaining rights while limiting unfair disparities in faculty compensation.

Education Experience

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

I'm unable to narrow it to just one teacher, because I think I'm a product of the influence of many. I was most influenced by teachers who demanded that I perform to my potential and who forged strong relationships with my parents. Mrs. Sabatini (2nd Grade), Mrs. Patricia Teague (4th Grade), Mrs. Joy Shoemaker (5th Grade), Mr. Bill Sech (Jr. High Band), Mr. Tom Bennett (HS Band), Mr Ken Koelsch (HS AP English) all quickly come to mind.

I also had a distant relative that taught history and was a vice principal in the in the Vancouver (BC) School District who through my life always challenged me and helped to broaden my perspective and understanding of the world around me.

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.

We plan to raise and spend \$60k primary and \$200k in the general. We have raised \$42k to date. I am in the process of doorbelling a minimum of 8k doors. We have an ongoing volunteer phone bank and are supporting volunteer doorbelling. We are relying heavily on unions and other groups that are endorsing us to inform and engage their members/supporters in our campaign.

Rep. Ross Hunter, Rep. Judy Clibborn, Rep. Chris Hurst, Rep. Geoff Simpson, Rep. Larry Springer, Rep. Roger Goodman, Issaquah City Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah City Councilmember Mark Mullet.

CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

NAME Dean Willard

HOME STREET ADDRESS

CITY & ZIP Sammamish WA 98075

CELL PHONE

HOME PHONE

<i>Family Members</i>	<i>Relationship</i>	<i>If school age, what school do they attend?</i>
Dorothy Willard	Spouse	

CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

CAMPAIGN MANAGER Sylvester Cann

CAMPAIGN ADDRESS

CAMPAIGN E-MAIL

PO Box 368, Issaquah WA 98027 (195 1st Place NW, Ste 300) action@deanwillard.com

OFFICE PHONE 425-434-8008

CAMPAIGN MGR CELL PHONE 206-251-7040

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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

Board of Directors, Seattle Youth Symphony

Steering Committee, June Leonard Memorial Golf Tournament benefitting Treehouse for Kids

Steering Committee, Washington CASH Annual Gala

EDUCATION

Graduate, Juneau-Douglas High School 1981

Attended, Ricks College, Rexburg, ID - Economics Major

BRIEF EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Former VP, Enterprise Information Security, T-Mobile USA

Former Partner, Technology Consulting, Accenture