

Washington Education Association Political Action Committee
2010 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire



Candidate: Dennis Kampe

Office Sought: State Representative, 18th Legislative District, Position #1

These are my official positions in seeking state office.

Candidate Signature:

Date:

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

Dennis Kampe 4/29/10 10:39 PM

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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:

I have a very deep respect for the will of the voters, and generally speaking, do not support over turning their will through legislative action. In addition to that, I believe teachers stand on the front lines of education. They deserve double the average salary of teachers across our country, and I will always be supportive of COLA raises for our educators.

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:

I absolutely do. I believe that teachers are the worst compensated employees in society given the incredibly important role they play in the lives of our young people. They deserve proper compensation for their efforts, and I will always be supportive of raises and benefits for these professionals.

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 X

Please explain your position:

I would like to work with the WEA on these issues. I do believe there is a time and place for standards and student achievement, but I also have very strong concerns about the affect this may have on teacher's work, as I am adamantly opposed to the notion of “teaching for a test and not teaching for learning,” and I recognize this is a fear shared by teachers across our state.

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:

Teacher's have the right to collectively bargain for their contracts, plain and simple. I will never support legislation that would limit a teacher's ability to collectively bargain.

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 believe that the subjects students learn in school are important across the board, and that one particular subject isn't necessarily more critical than any other. Moreover, I'm concerned that should we have a “differentiated pay” system, it would drive teachers away from areas such as music, arts and CTE programs. Some students excel in math and science, others in English and history. We should equally reward anyone who chooses the career path of education, not create disincentive.

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:

I simply believe that should teachers – and frankly, workers in all professions – take the time to further enhance their professional skills, they should be entitled to financial compensation. The better trained a teacher is, the more students will benefit. This would not only include academic certification, but also national technical certification

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 more rational approach than having a mandatory age. Someone who goes into teaching at the age of 45 should be treated in a slightly different manner than someone who begins at age 22.

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:

I do believe that the Legislature is dramatically underfunding education, and I wholeheartedly concur with the recent court decision that stated we are not currently meeting our constitutional obligation. I will support further funding increased for public education in the Legislature.

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:

Small class sizes are essential in an educational environment. As I stated earlier, I will always be hesitant to roll back any initiative passed by the voters in our state, and this situation is certainly a primary reason why I take this 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:

I am supportive of this Legislation, and am hopeful that the Legislature will not make further changes to the law. Moreover, if I was in the Legislature, I will look to work with the WEA on this and other issues..

WEA opposes linking teacher evaluations to student test scores.

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

Please explain your position:

I am not supportive of linking teacher evaluations to student test scores. There are just too many variables for the evaluations to be meaningful. This is an issue that I would like to work with the WEA to correct. The standards in Washington state are already higher than other states and we must first be supportive of our teachers and second correct the belief by the general public and other uninformed individuals who compare Washington teachers to other states as if the state tests are equal in rigor.

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:

I cannot imagine this discussion taking place WITHOUT public education employees being a key part of the conversation!

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:

I have never been in favor of linking the WASL or the HSPE to student graduation. I do believe that students should reach specific goals, and that graduation diplomas should not merely be handed to our high school students based on seat time, but rather of demonstrated knowledge or skills.

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:

These are basic protections that ALL employees should enjoy.

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:

For me, this is a straightforward first amendment issue. The notion that teachers COULD NOT engage in the political process is absurd to me. Moreover, I do not see how we will ever tackle the challenges we face in public education without teachers having a seat at the table.

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:

As I stated earlier, I believe all employees have the right to collectively bargain, and I will never support any piece of legislation that remotely infringes on that right.

Education Experience

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

My most influential teacher was Mr. K., my Junior and Senior Agriculture teacher. His influence wasn't that he taught agriculture, but rather that he created an environment of respect and caring and he instilled in each student the expectation of being responsible for your own actions. As a result students enjoyed being in class and we were engaged in the teaching and learning process. It wasn't work it was relevant and important to us. He was great.

Campaign Plans

Please describe your campaign plan for fundraising and doorbelling.

I intend to raise approximately \$90,000 for my campaign, and to knock on 12,000 doors between now and November.

Please list endorsements by noteworthy elected officials.

*Craig Pridemore, State Senator, 49th Leg. District
Jim Jacks, State Representative, 49th Leg. District
Tim Probst, State Representative, 17th Leg. District
Steve Stuart, Clark County Commissioner
Mike Ciraulo, Mayor of Battle Ground
Nancy Baker, Vancouver Port Commissioner
Brian Wolfe, Vancouver Port Commissioner
Al Swindell, Woodland City Council Member
Ken Botero, Longview City Council Member
Val Ogden, former state representative 49th Leg. District
Royce Pollard, former Vancouver Mayor
Randy I. Dorn, State Superintendent of Public Instruction
Washington State Labor Council*

Washington Organization of Vocational Educators

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

I intend to knock on 12,000 doors, and to send several pieces of direct mail to voters across the 18th District.

CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

NAME Dennis Kampe

HOME STREET ADDRESS

CITY & ZIP Brush Prairie, WA 98606

CELL PHONE **HOME PHONE**

<i>Family Members</i>	<i>Relationship</i>	<i>If school age, what school do they attend?</i>
Debbie Kampe	Wife	

CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

CAMPAIGN MANAGER: Lauren Stephenson

CAMPAIGN ADDRESS : P.O. Box 821316 Vancouver, WA 98682

CAMPAIGN E-MAIL: denniskampe@live.com

OFFICE PHONE: 360-635-1920 **CAMPAIGN MGR CELL PHONE :** 360-907-8345

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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

Washington Association of Career and Technical Education

Washington Association of Vocational administrators

Washington Association of Secondary Administrators

Washington State Skills Center Association

SW WA CTE Directors Association

SW WA Labor Council

EDUCATION

Ridgefield High School

Clark College

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers Apprenticeship

BRIEF EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Clark County Skills Center, Director, 19 years
Clark County Skills Center, Assistant Director, 4 years
Clark County Skills Center, Coordinator of Student Services, 4 years, Evergreen Education Assn.
Battle Ground School District, Teacher, 4 years, Battle Ground education Assn.
Felida Corp, Director of Accounting and Human Resources, 2 years
Clark College, Machine Shop Teacher, 5 years (part time)
Kenton Machine, Journeyman Machinist, 10 years, International Assn. of Machinists, Local 65