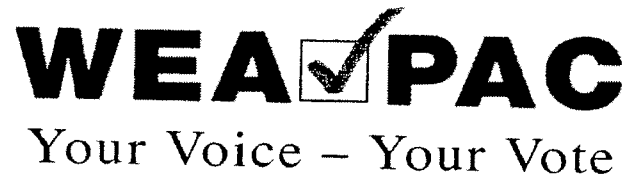


Washington Education Association Political Action Committee
2010 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire



Candidate: Derek Stanford

Office Sought: State Representative, 1st District, Position 1

These are my official positions in seeking state office.

Candidate Signature: /s/ Derek Stanford

Date: 6/3/2010

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: *The COLAs were clearly mandated by the voters, and I support them. I will oppose any effort to suspend I-732 again.*

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: *We must ensure that teachers are paid not only a livable wage, but also a competitive one. It is essential that we properly compensate the individuals that are entrusted with our children's future.*

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: *Student test scores are affected by a myriad of forces beyond the control of teachers: divorce, job loss, drug and alcohol problems, etc. It just doesn't make any sense for teachers to be held responsible for things they can't control.*

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: *Collective bargaining is a right and must not be abridged. A compensation system without full funding is just an empty promise. To be fair and measurable, a compensation system must be based on objective criteria.*

WEA opposes differentiated pay based on the subject taught.

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

Please explain your position: *A professional teacher needs to have certain education and skills regardless of the subject taught.*

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: *NBCTs have completed a comprehensive and peer-reviewed assessment of their teaching practice and content knowledge. This is an excellent path for professional development for teachers.*

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: *Pension benefits should be based on the number of years worked. The current system essentially punishes people who enter the teaching profession in their 20's. We should be further incentivizing entrance into the world of teaching, not punishing people.*

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: *Reforms and mandates without sufficient funding will not solve problems. The legislature must fully fund basic education. This will require a legislative commitment both now and in the future to make sure this promise is kept, as well as funding voter-mandated COLAs and smaller class sizes.*

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: *Smaller class sizes are critical for allowing teachers to spend time understanding each individual student.*

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: *This legislation is a carefully crafted agreement between stakeholders, and it should be respected. The process by which 6696 was drafted is precisely the sort of process I will work towards when I'm in the Legislature – bringing education advocates from all areas together to draft legislation that works for everyone, from students to teachers to parents.*

WEA opposes linking teacher evaluations to student test scores.

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

Please explain your position: *As I mention above, student test scores are affected by many elements of a student's life which are far beyond the control of teachers. It would be unfair to hold teachers responsible for things they can't control. Student test scores should play a role in tracking a student's progress, but they are not suitable as a measure of a teacher's effectiveness.*

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: *It is vital that the QEC base its recommendations on solid science and the expertise of Washington educators. It is always important to obtain information from people with first-hand knowledge to ensure that all the needs of the students and educators are met and the correct issues are being addressed.*

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: *There are many students that have trouble with high stakes standardized tests and still do poorly even if they have a full understanding of the material. I do not believe that a standardized test on its own is the best indicator of a student's abilities. Also, using a test to qualify for graduation forces teachers to deviate from more comprehensive lesson plans and teach directly to the test.*

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: *I am a passionate advocate for the right of workers to organize and bargain collectively. I have put my own job on the line to organize my colleagues and try to form a union, and I will stand up for anyone who wants to exercise their right to organize.*

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: *It is critical that we hear from public school employees on political and legislative issues. Any discussion about education reform or innovation must include teachers – they are the ones who know what is really going on in the schools.*

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: *Community and technical college faculty should have the same bargaining rights as other educators.*

Education Experience

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

Ms. Wilson, my 11th grade English teacher at Los Alamitos High School in California, had a tremendous impact on me. She had an amazing ability to get teenagers to approach poetry and literature with an open mind; she introduced me to Hermann Hesse and e.e. cummings. More than this, Ms. Wilson served tirelessly as the coach of the Academic Decathlon team. As coach, Ms. Wilson put in two or three extra hours every day after school, organizing the team study program and helping students learn to teach each other. When I was on the Academic Decathlon team as a senior in 1988, we made it to the state championship. This was a wonderful and formative experience for me, and I owe it to Ms. Wilson's dedication and enthusiasm.

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 \$120,000 for the campaign, and we have currently raised about \$25,000. Our doorbelling plan is 8,000 doors before the primary and then another 12,000 before the general. We are on track with our doorbelling goals with about 1,000 doors so far. We will send out several targeted mailers.

Notable Endorsements:

Dave Gossett, Snohomish County Councilmember

Al O'Brien, State Representative, 1st LD

Zack Hudgins, State Representative, 11th LD

Maralyn Chase, State Representative, 32nd LD

Mike Sells, State Representative, 38th LD

John McCoy, State Representative, 38th LD

Jim Moeller, State Representative, 49th LD

CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

NAME Derek Stanford

HOME STREET ADDRESS

CITY & ZIP Bothell, WA 98021

CELL PHONE

HOME PHONE same as cell

<i>Family Members</i>	<i>Relationship</i>	<i>If school age, what school do they attend?</i>
Cheryl	Spouse	
Gabrielle	Daughter	

CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

CAMPAIGN MANAGER Erin Cheuvront

CAMPAIGN ADDRESS PO Box 2041, Bothell, WA 98041

CAMPAIGN E-MAIL derekstanford2010@gmail.com

OFFICE PHONE 206-330-6842

CAMPAIGN MGR CELL PHONE 206-910-6283

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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

WashTech (CWA local 37083), union member since 2002

IEEE, Senior Member

SEAMEC, Board member 2003-2006 and 2009-present

1st District Democrats, PCO

EDUCATION

1999 PhD Statistics, University of Washington

1993 BS and MS Mathematics, Harvey Mudd College

Public schools in California and Virginia for K-12

BRIEF EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

2008-present, Director of Analytics, Globys

2006-2008, Director of Analytics, Interthinx

2002-2006, Statistical Consultant and sole proprietor, Isomorphic Consulting

1999-2002, Research Scientist, Insightful