

**Washington Education Association Political Action Committee
2010 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire**

WEA PAC
Your Voice – Your Vote

Candidate: Kris Lytton

Office Sought: House of Representatives, 40th LD, Position 1

These are my official positions in seeking state office.

Candidate Signature: *Kristine Lytton*

Date: May 10, 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:

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:

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:

One of the key provisions in SB6696 is the development of new evaluation criteria for teachers and principals and establishment of a new four-tiered evaluation rating system. Measures of student growth data can be used when available and relevant. A pilot evaluation system will look at objective measures to achieve this. There needs to be multiple measures and consideration of other factors that affect a student and classroom in the evaluation process.

SB6696 and ESHB2261 have many components that require further input and consideration of all key constituents. My goal is to collaborate with these key constituents and focus on fully funding education.

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:

Again, SB6696 has a key provision to increase the salaries of staff that implement innovation programs. It allows school districts to increase the salaries of teachers and staff involved in implementing innovative activities designed to close the achievement gap, encourage a focus on STEM subjects or provide arts education. Before this can be achieved, the salary for teachers needs to be brought up to a living wage and the State needs to fully commit to a continue salary model.

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 X Oppose _____

Please explain your position:

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:

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 opposes linking teacher evaluations to student test scores.

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

Please explain your position:

One of the key provisions in SB6696 is the development of new evaluation criteria for teachers and principals and establishment of a new four-tiered evaluation rating system. Measures of student growth data can be used when available and relevant. A pilot evaluation system will need look at objective measures to achieve this. There will need to be multiple measures and a way to examine other factors in the classroom-the individuality of particular classes and students and how they impact learning.

My experience and expectation from a parent perspective and school board member, is to provide the resources to enable teacher and student success in the classroom.

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:

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

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?

The most influential teacher i had was in high school, and at the time did not appreciate the teacher and did not like the class. This teacher encouraged me to try new things, work harder and helped me to master the subject. Looking back, due to her constantly encouraging and expecting me to do more, I gained the self-confidence to attend college. Now i appreciate her.

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.

My fundraising is progressing as planned with \$15,500 from friends in my local community and family. I have fundraising events planned in Mt. Vernon and Bellingham in May.

Endorsements from elected officials include: Dean Maxwell- Mayor of Anacortes, Brad Adams- Anacortes City Council, Brian Gear- Anacortes City Council, Kevin McKeown-Anacortes City Council, Ed Brunz – Mayor of Burlington, and Stan Snapp-Bellingham City Council.

Voter contact plan includes website, facebook, direct mail, phone blasts, newspaper advertisement and possibly radio.

CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

NAME Kris Lytton

HOME STREET ADDRESS

CITY & ZIP Anacortes, WA 98221

CELL PHONE

HOME PHONE

<i>Family Members</i>	<i>Relationship</i>	<i>If school age, what school do they attend?</i>
<u>Mike Lytton</u>	<u>Husband</u>	
<u>Alex Lytton</u>	<u>Son</u>	<u>University of Washington</u>
<u>Alan Lytton</u>	<u>Son</u>	

CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

CAMPAIGN MANAGER Art Shotwell

CAMPAIGN ADDRESS 1004 Commercial Ave., PMB 349, Anacortes, WA 98221

CAMPAIGN E-MAIL Kris@KrisLytton.com

OFFICE PHONE (360) 299-4542

CAMPAIGN MGR CELL

PHONE

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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

See attached resume

EDUCATION

See attached resume

BRIEF EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

See attached resume



Kris Lytton

4004 Astrea Place, Anacortes, WA 98221 | 360-299-4542 | Kris@KrisLytton.com

I am currently President of the Anacortes School Board and was elected to that position by my co-Board members. I am actively involved in public service with a number of other community organizations and I am seeking to be elected to the state House of Representatives, 40th Legislative District, Position 1.

Elected Experience: 2005 elected, 2009 re-elected Anacortes School District Board of Directors.

Career Experience:

Citicorp Executive Development Center, St. Louis, MO. Senior Financial Analyst & Operations Manager.

Shell Oil Company, Wood River, IL. Finance & Accounting departments.

Education: Attended Southern Illinois University, University of Missouri, and Lewis and Clark Community College, Godfrey, IL. Received AA degree in Applied Sciences.

Other public service: Anacortes Schools Foundation Vice-President; Anacortes Museum Foundation Board Secretary; Anacortes Senior College; Anacortes/San Juan Island Red Cross Board Member; Anacortes PTA's served as President and Legislative Chair.

Awards: Awarded Community Leadership Award (2009) by Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA).

Family: Married 21 years to Mike Lytton, 2 children, Alex attending the University of Washington and Alan sophomore Anacortes High School.



May 10, 2010

WEA-PAC

1800 James Street, #201
Bellingham, WA 98225

WEA-PAC members,

I have spent my adult life as an education advocate. I have been a member and served in officer positions for our local PTA/PTSA's, served or chaired on all campaigns for local levies and bonds since 1997, a member of the Anacortes Schools Foundation and currently serving my second term on the Anacortes School Board. And more importantly, I have spent hours in our schools helping staff and students.

I understand the importance of public education and the role that teachers play in our society. I am extremely proud of our staff and schools in Anacortes.

I want to continue my role as a strong education advocate in Olympia. Education has been and will continue to be my priority.

I am very much interested in an endorsement from WEA and look forward to continuing the good relationship that I have with teachers.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristine Lytton".