

Washington Education Association Political Action Committee
2010 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire



Candidate: Monica Stonier

Office Sought: State Representative, District 17, Pos 2

These are my official positions in seeking state office.

Candidate Signature:

Date: May 19, 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:

Educators continue to move backwards in salary as the demands of the job, level of accountability, and credential requirements continue to increase. Not only is the COLA crucial for teachers to support families but it is even more crucial to compensate for required certification and degrees and to compete in the job market for the most capable and effective teachers.

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:

As stated above.

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:

Accountability for effective teaching is the responsibility to tax payers as investors. Washington State currently does not have an assessment or achievement structure that would be an accurate measure of effective teaching. Tying teacher pay to an inaccurate measure of effective teaching would be damaging to students and teachers.

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:

What items might fall under "alternative compensation?"

WEA opposes differentiated pay based on the subject taught.

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

Please explain your position:

All contents or subjects are imperative for educating the whole child.

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:

National Board Certified Teachers meet a national standard for excellence.

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:

There were some improvements from ESHB 2261. Funding the bill is important if it is to have an impact on education.

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:

Teachers are more effective when they have more contact time with students and use it effectively.

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 would have to hear proposed changes before deciding.

WEA opposes linking teacher evaluations to student test scores.

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

Please explain your position:

Accountability for effective teaching is the responsibility to tax payers as investors. Washington State currently does not have an assessment or achievement structure that would be an accurate measure of effective teaching. Tying teacher pay to an inaccurate measure of effective teaching would be damaging to students and teachers.

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:

A standard for graduation, rather than based on arbitrary grades that have different requirements based on the teacher or school, is important if a diploma is to truly reflect knowledge and skill. The adjustments should be made in interventions for students before they reach graduation ineligibility, accommodations for students with special needs, and assessments that provide valuable information for teachers in time for them to use the data.

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:

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:

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:

Education Experience

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

Coach Sahl.

Mr. Sahl was my chemistry teacher and cross country coach. He taught me that setting goals and working hard toward them was not a secret for succeeding in school and in sports, but a philosophical model for everything I would accomplish in life. I found myself more accountable to Coach than to my own parents, even with a very supportive and loving family. My mother still recalls having to threaten me with telling Coach if I was up to no

good because she knew that I care tremendously about what Coach thought of me. I learned the importance of being accountable to a team for both my accomplishments and my missteps. I understood and wondered about science outside of class and later had an appreciation for his teaching when I was in college taking classes that were difficult for students without a teacher like Mr. Sahl. Coach Sahl taught the curriculum and coached me but teachers are best when they teach us about ourselves and our place in the world. I learned to be accountable to myself, to trust, know and challenge my limits

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.

I will need to raise \$200,000 to win this race. I have raised \$17,000 on my own by talking with constituents, phone banking, and without involvement from organizations.

I need to earn and turn out 13,000 votes in the primary and 22,000 votes in the general election. I can do this by talking with voters in swing precincts. At roughly one precinct each week, I can doorbell those 20 precincts personally.

Endorsements:

Congressman Brian Baird, 3rd CD

Deb Wallace, State Representative, 17th LD

Tim Probst, State Representative, 17th LD

Craig Pridemore, State Senator, 49th LD

Jim Moeller, State Representative, 49th LD

Jim Jacks, State Representative, 49th LD

Royce Pollard, Former Mayor of Vancouver

Val Oaden, Former State Representative Dist. 49

Joe Tanner, Former State Representative Dist. 18

Al Bauer, State Senator, 49th LD, Retired

Ed Cote, Democratic National Committee Member

Luis Moscoso, Secretary, Washington State Democrats

Jack Burkman, Vancouver City Council

Steve Stuart, Clark County Commissioner

Nancy Baker, Vancouver Port Commissioner

Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO

National Women's Political Caucus of Washington

Washington State Democratic Hispanic and Latino Caucus

Washington State Democratic Asian Pacific American Caucus

Washington State Federation of Democratic Women

CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

NAME Monica Stonier

HOME STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY & ZIP Vancouver 98684

CELL PHONE _____

HOME PHONE _____

<i>Family Members</i>	<i>Relationship</i>	<i>If school age, what school do they attend?</i>
<u>Brandon Stonier</u>	<u>Husband</u>	
<u>Zachary Stonier</u>	<u>Son</u>	
<u>Mallory Stonier</u>	<u>Daughter</u>	

CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

CAMPAIGN MANAGER Aaron Jensen

CAMPAIGN ADDRESS PO Box 871956
info@electmonicastonier.com

_____CAMPAIGN E-MAIL

OFFICE PHONE _____

_____CAMPAIGN MGR CELL PHONE 360.901.2859

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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

NEA, WEA, EEA

Association of School and Curriculum Development, ASCD

National Council for Teachers of English, NCTE

Public Education and Business Coalition, PEBC

EDUCATION

Bachelors Degree in Psychology, Western Washington University

Washington State Teaching Certificate, Western Washington University

Washington State Professional Certificate, Washington State University Vancouver

Master's in Education, Washington State University Vancouver

BRIEF EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

US Bank Teller 1995-2001

Retail and food service

Data Entry

Evergreen Public Schools:

Substitute teacher – 1.5 years

Middle school language arts and social studies, grades 6,7,8

Excel, general education and special education populations – 7 years

Instructional Literacy Coach in middle school – 4 years

Athletics coach - 6 years