

Washington Education Association Political Action Committee  
2010 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire

**WEA**  **PAC**  
Your Voice – Your Vote

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**Candidate: Raymond Bunk**

**Office Sought: State Senate (31<sup>st</sup> LD)**

**These are my official positions in seeking state office.**

**Candidate Signature:**

**Date: May 18<sup>th</sup>, 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:**

*I believe that the will of the voters must be upheld. The notion that we are balancing our state budget on the backs of teachers is not acceptable, in my view. Teachers are some of the most valuable role models in the lives of young people – both for the education they give, as well as the example they set. I believe they must be properly compensated with COLA raises, and in the State Senate I will fight to reinstate these cuts.*

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:**

*Yes I do. We all know that the cost-of-living index is a helpful guide for setting salaries, but teachers and other education professionals deserve more. I will lead on this issue in the State Senate.*

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:**

*I believe tying teacher pay directly with test scores is unfair. I could potentially support such a system if and ONLY if we had a measure to test student achievement that took into account the different manners in which different students learn. But to tie teacher pay to a test score is simply unfair in my view. Moreover, I do not believe that a young person's education is enhanced when teachers are essentially forced to "teach to the test." Teachers must have the ability to be creative and original in their approach to the classroom, and I believe we must give them the freedom to do so.*

**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:**

*Yes – I am a proud union member myself, and will always defend the rights of teachers and other education professionals 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:**

*If we had a system where math teachers got paid more than, for example, music teachers, I believe the number of young people seeking careers in education would decrease, which would have a negative impact on young people. Different students have different interests, and I struggle with the notion that any one subject is more important than another. We must have qualified, well compensated teachers in ALL subject areas – be it math, science, the arts or athletics.*

**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 wholeheartedly support this. Teachers who go above and beyond to enhance their skills should be financially rewarded.*

**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:**

*I agree with the WEA on this issue. I worry that the current system is a disincentive to young people going into the field of education. If someone begins their career at age 26, and puts a solid 30 years of hard work into educating our young people, they should not be forced into teaching an addition decade simply to get a pension.*

**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:**

*We are already not meeting our constitutional obligation to fully fund education, according to recent court cases. Education is the silver bullet, and I will not support cuts to K-12. With so many tax loopholes currently on the books, I fail to believe that the Legislature could not act more creatively in generating necessary revenue to fully fund K-12 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  Oppose

**Please explain your position:**

*Every teacher I have known has made it clear to me the necessity of having smaller class sizes for our young people. Again, I acknowledge the fact that the Legislature has had to make tough choices on budget cuts over the past several years. However, I believe we must do better in not focusing on the cuts on K-12 education. Legislators should not punish our kids for their own mismanagement of state funds.*

**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:**

*I believe that the WEA's position must be taken seriously by the State Legislature. I am all for receiving further federal funding for our public schools, but am wary of further changes as I'm afraid they may have an adverse affect on teachers.*

**WEA opposes linking teacher evaluations to student test scores.**

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

**Please explain your position:**

*As I stated earlier, I am all for accountability across the board, but am wary of designating test scores as the only metric. Not every student is a good test taker, and their inability to thrive in this area is not necessarily indicative of their learning potential, or of the quality of education they received from a teacher.*

**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:**

*I do not believe the Legislature – the vast majority of whom are not educators themselves – can make informed decisions regarding education without the input of the WEA and other education organizations.*

**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:**

*I am not uniformly opposed to graduation requirements, but again, I am very hesitant to support one blanket standard, and I do agree with the WEA's position in that regard. In the State Senate, I would like to work with the WEA and other organizations to determine a system of graduation requirements and accountability that actually work, are fair, and do not force our teachers to teach to one specific examination.*

**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:**

*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  Oppose**

**Please explain your position:**

*To be honest, I'm shocked that there are those out there who believe that public school employees SHOULD NOT participate in politics! Politicians – local and Legislators – have such a tremendous impact on the quality of our schools, and they cannot make informed decisions without the involvement of education professionals.*

**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:**

*My position on this is clear – all workers, regardless of their profession, have the basic right to collectively bargain.*

## **Education Experience**

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

*The most influential teacher was Dr. Snow and he was a math teacher of mine in High School. Dr. Snow was influential to me because of the life he led. He often spoke about what he wanted to do "when he grew up." Throughout his life, he held many dramatically different careers. He was a warden in a prison, a college professor, along with many other positions and finally a high school math teacher.*

*While I was assigned to him as a student, he developed brain cancer and passed away during the year. I was fortunate enough to visit with him at his home prior to his passing. When I spoke to him, he smiled about his life experiences and told a couple of stories. I remember thinking that he had lived a full life and accomplished many goals. He lived his life to the fullest and accomplished as much as he could. I hope I am following his example with my commitment to community service.*

## **Campaign Plans**

***Please describe your campaign plan for fundraising and doorbelling.***

*I intend to raise approximately \$200,000 for my campaign, and to knock on 13,000 doors between now and November.*

***Please list endorsements by noteworthy elected officials.***

*Pending*

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

*I intend to knock on 13,000 doors, and to send several pieces of direct mail to voters across the 31<sup>st</sup> District.*

**CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

**NAME** Raymond Bunk

**HOME STREET ADDRESS**

**CITY & ZIP** Bonney Lake WA 98391

**CELL PHONE**

**HOME PHONE**

<i>Family Members</i>	<i>Relationship</i>	<i>If school age, what school do they attend?</i>
Adriana Gazman	Daughter	

**CAMPAIGN INFORMATION**

**CAMPAIGN MANAGER** Jenny Heath

**CAMPAIGN ADDRESS** 20825 State Route 410, #416, Bonney Lake WA 98391

**CAMPAIGN E-MAIL** raymondbunk@yahoo.com or info@raymondbunk.com

**OFFICE PHONE** n/a      **CAMPAIGN MGR CELL PHONE** (415) 250-0239

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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

Greater Pierce County Community Network, Legislative/Education Chair, 2006 – 2009, Pierce County, WA

Pierce County Meth Action Team, Member, 2006 - 2009, Pierce County, WA

Kick for Nick - Puget Sound Chapter, Co-Chair, 2007 – Present, Pierce County, WA

Washington State Youth Academy, Mentor, 2008 – Present, Bremerton, WA,

City of Bonney Lake Design Commission, Commissioner, 2008 – Present, Bonney Lake, WA

City of Bonney Lake Civil Service Commission, Commissioner, 2009 – Present, Bonney Lake, WA

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### **EDUCATION**

Masters of Business Administration from Pacific Lutheran University and a Bachelor's Degree from Western Illinois University, double majoring in Fire Department Administration and Fire Prevention Technology.

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### **BRIEF EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

Police Officer, Federal Way Police Department 2002 – Present  
Reservist, United State Air Force 2001 – present  
Active Duty, United States Air Force, 1996-1999