

Washington Education Association Political Action Committee
2010 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire



Candidate: Sherry Appleton

Office Sought: Representative, 23rd Leg. District, Position 1

These are my official positions in seeking state office.

Candidate Signature:

Date: May 3, 2010

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:

This was the will of the people - I-732. My own position is that teacher's deserve better pay and benefits and we need to figure out how to do it.

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: Children are our most important responsibility - competing in a global economy requires the best educated, trained work force. By paying for the worth of a teacher, we have the brightest and best teachers and support 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 X Oppose _____

Please explain your position: Student performance is not just the responsibility of the educator but parents. Each child is different and requires different responses in teaching situations. Also children test differently, and some cannot take tests successfully.

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: I believe that all contracts must be adhered to, and that it is the right of the local units to bargain. I am not in favor of an alternative compensation system that could leave some members behind.

WEA opposes differentiated pay based on the subject taught.

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

Please explain your position: This is ridiculous. All studies are important - math and science are important, but so are the arts. Teaching is an art in itself and to impart knowledge is a gift regardless of what you teach.

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: The state proposed the salary bonus, and I don't believe we should change the policy mid-stream. It requires a great deal of time and attention to get certification, and the bonus is reward for doing it.

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 X Oppose _____

Please explain your position: I worked for years as a lobbyist to allow earlier retirement for teachers and other public employees. The Rule of 80 or 85 would be much fairer. We

allow law enforcement and firefighters because of stress; teachers are under stress because of the teaching environment these days.

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: I voted against HB 2261 because it was an "empty promise". By passing this bill, the Legislature made a commitment and should keep it. Of course without a change in our form of taxation, the money is just not there.

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: I believe that the Student Achievement Fund should be restored and live up to its promise of smaller K-3 class sizes.

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: We need to secure Race to the Top funding and the Legislature needs to uphold its position.

WEA opposes linking teacher evaluations to student test scores.

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

Please explain your position: Again this is ridiculous - children's environment and parental control or lack thereof are the basis of how children test. Of course teacher's influence is a part of this but to tie test scores to evaluations is absurd.

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: Absolutely. Is anyone suggesting anything else? WEA are the experts and certainly their opinions and input should be a large part of any recommendations.

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 a supporter of high stakes testing especially since it is not looked at by colleges. End of course exams are valuable, and high stakes testing should be a guideline, not a requisite for graduation.

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: I have always believed employees have the right to form a union and bargain for their wages and benefits and working conditions.

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: Absolutely. Just because you are a public school or public sector employee, you do not lose your civil rights and all of us should take part in the political process.

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: I have always thought community and technical college faculty have been the step child of the system. All faculty should have the right to bargain locally as all other education union members.

Education Experience

Who was the most influential teacher you had in school and why? His name was Dr. Bender and was my Chemistry teacher in High School. He gave me such a thirst for knowledge and I worked like a "dog" 😊 to get that A.

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 are just in the process of making a campaign plan. We plan to raise money through mailings, coffees, and fundraisers. At this point we have not asked for endorsements as we are interviewing potential campaign managers and notable elected officials have a process that most adhere to. In the past three elections we have been endorsed by most state-wide electeds, the Governor, our two Senators, etc. I will assume we will have those again.

Our message, as always, will be "Putting Kitsap First" and we will continue to say it over and over.

CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

NAME Sherry Appleton

HOME STREET ADDRESS

CITY & ZIP Poulsbo 98370

CELL PHONE

HOME PHONE _____

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

CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

CAMPAIGN MANAGER Still interviewing

CAMPAIGN ADDRESS P.O. Box 2140

CAMPAIGN E-MAIL

sherrya76@comcast.net

OFFICE PHONE: Not yet

CAMPAIGN MGR CELL PHONE Not

yet

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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

See Resume attached

EDUCATION

BRIEF EMPLOYMENT HISTORY