

Washington Education Association Political Action Committee
2010 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire



Candidate: *STEVE THARINGER*

Office Sought: *REPRESENTATIVE 24 LD position 2*

These are my official positions in seeking state office.

Candidate Signature: *Steve Tharinger*

Date: *6/4/10*

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:

Education and fair educator compensation are fundamentally required. Obviously the State of Washington is experiencing severe budget challenges, finding the balance between expenditures & revenues will be extremely difficult in

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:

Taking into account, as I mentioned above, the severe budget challenges for State schools

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:

I feel there should be some type of performance evaluation for educators, the criteria and

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: *Two a balanced approach*

WEA opposes differentiated pay based on the subject taught.

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

Please explain your position: *How would you determine the relative value PE/Art is less important? I don't think so. than math*

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: *Acknowledge the extra cost decision is appropriate*

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: *This, as most of these questions are read on a 0 ft. The demographics point to mandatory the skilled workforce needed to meet our education goals. Second, there is a huge pension benefit obligation the demographics poster*

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: *Support within the budget constraints*
3 *The State is responsible*

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:

with the guidelines outlined previously

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: *do not support as it is language of SB 6696*

WEA opposes linking teacher evaluations to student test scores.

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

Please explain your position: *test scores are a limited metric for teacher evaluation*

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: *The appears to be a balanced approach*

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: *There needs to be some common metric
my understanding is the HSPE is not an effort in, balanced measure*

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: *It is a fair balanced approach*

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: *Broad civic engagement is fundamental for the success of our 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:

Being able to bargain at the local level allows agreement based on local circumstances

Education Experience

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

A political Theory Professor in college. He was a challenging thinker and challenged the students in his seminars.

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.

The campaign plan is being developed

I am endorsed by the House Democratic Caucus, and the
24 LD Democrats.

- mailings, doorbelling, radio

CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

NAME *STEVE THORNTON*

HOME STREET ADDRESS

CITY & ZIP *SEQuim, 98382*

CELL PHONE

HOME PHONE *-*

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

CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

CAMPAIGN MANAGER

Post Johanson

CAMPAIGN ADDRESS

P.O. Box 834 SEQuim, WA

CAMPAIGN E-MAIL

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OFFICE PHONE

360-912-2221

CAMPAIGN MGR CELL PHONE

360-912-2221

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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

Equim Senior Rotary

EDUCATION

*BS Colorado College
Political Science*

BRIEF EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Small Business owner 1997 - 2009

Clallam County Commissioner 2000 until present