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Audit Information

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Interaction Details:

Questions	Responses
1)Please complete this portion of the questionnaire before proceeding with answering the questions.	Name: Chris Marr Email: chris@chrismarr.us City: Spokane
2)What legislative position are you seeking?	State Senator, 6th District
3)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 WEA's position?	Yes
4)Please explain your position:	I was pleased to be the prime sponsor of the Senate floor amendment which reinstates teacher COLAs and restore the suspended COLA increments.
5)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 WEA's position?	Yes
6)Please explain your position:	Yes, until we can assure that all students, schools, parental involvement and socio-economic factors are identical, and that test scores re an accurate measure of teacher proficiency, we should table this discussion.

7)WEA believes any alternative compensation system must be Yes
subject to local collective bargaining, fully funded, available
to all and based on objective criteria. Do you support WEA's
position?

8)Please explain your position:

Any changes in educator compensation should be discussed, negotiated and collectively bargained at the local level, where they reflect local input, needs, resources and priorities.

9)WEA opposes differentiated pay based on the subject Yes
taught. Do you support WEA's position?

10)Please explain your position:

Yes, we need qualified teachers in all disciplines--not just those viewed by some as more important or more economically impactful.

11)WEA supports the current practice of providing salary Yes
bonuses and other support for teachers who achieve
certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching
Standards. Do you support WEA's position?

12)Please explain your position:

I supported previous legislation to provide incentives for National Board certification and will continue to support retaining that commitment in the operating budget.

13)Washington educators currently are required to work until Yes
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 WEA's
position?

14)Please explain your position:

Educators should be permitted to teach as long as they are effective, but retirement eligibility should be based on a years of service standard not age, as it is in other areas.

15)The 2009 Legislature passed ESHB 2261, which changes Yes
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 WEA's position?

16)Please explain your position:

I voted AGAINST SB2261, because it flew in the face of concurrent decisions to reduce class-size and teacher COLA funding. Having said that, the funding commitments contained in SB2261 are now a promise of the legislature and I will commit to supporting funding for the programs in the bill. This will mean prioritizing K-12 education over other worthy programs, but I am prepared to prioritize.

17)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 WEA's position?

Yes

18)Please explain your position:

Few factors impact the quality of educational outcomes and teacher effectiveness and retention more than manageable class sizes. I-728 funding must be restored as quickly as possible.

19)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 WEA's position?

Yes

20)Please explain your position:

SB6696 was a carefully negotiated compromise among educational stakeholders, which I was pleased to support. It establishes reasonable teacher evaluation criteria, and allows

local schools and educators flexibility in implementing them. I applaud WEAs willingness to take this step forward and would only support further changes if it emerged from the same consensus.

21) 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 WEA's position?

22) Please explain your position:

Any process that is not empirically informed and excludes key affected stakeholders, has a high likelihood of underperforming its objectives. Of course, public education employees should be fully involved.

23) 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 WEA's position?

Yes

24) Please explain your position:

I have always supported the rights of workers to collectively bargain and have prime-sponsored a number of bills which extend those rights to other groups (child care providers, DSHS interpreters). Public education employees deserve these same protections.

25) WEA supports the right of public school employees to engage in the political process, both individually and collectively. Do you support WEA's position?

Yes

26) Please explain your position:

Yes--how ironic that anyone would seek to infringe on those rights for the individuals that teach our children about the democratic process,

- 27) 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 WEA's position? Yes
- 28) Please explain your position: I see no reason why community college faculty should not have the same rights other K-12 and four year college employees have, to bargain for salaries at the local level.
- 29) 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 WEA's position? Yes
- 30) Please explain your position: Starting salaries for those that educate our children, should be commensurate with the value we place on young minds. Teacher recruitment and retention is vital to improving educational outcomes.
- 31) WEA opposes linking the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) to student graduation. (Passing the HSPE is currently a graduation requirement.) Do you support WEA's position? Yes
- 32) Please explain your position: Testing is useful to determine student proficiency and the need for additional resources. It should not be viewed as the centerpiece of educational achievement. High stakes testing has been a colossal failure and I would oppose a win/lose approach based on WASL or the HSPE.
- 33) WEA opposes linking teacher evaluations to student test scores. Do you support WEA's position? Yes
- 34) Please explain your position: Not until we can hold parents and legislators equally responsible.

- 35) Who was the most influential teacher you had in school and why? Mr. Steve Polk was my Jr. High teacher and my mentor as the son of a divorced working mother of four. He imbued me with a sense of social conscience and encouraged me to excel at whatever I did. My public service and civic involvement represents my efforts to pay him back in some small way.
- 36) Please describe your campaign plan for fundraising and doorbelling. We will implement a similar plan as last cycle:
1. Fundraising goal=\$500,000 (\$203,000 raised thus far).
2. 12,000 doors knocked by the candidate (1,000 so far), with an equal number of volunteer doorbells.
- 37) Please list endorsements by noteworthy elected officials. Majority Leader Sen. Lisa Brown, Majority Floor Leader Sen. Tracey Eide, K-12 Education Chair Sen. Rosemary McAuliffe, Higher Ed Chair Sen. Derek Kilmer, Ways & Means Chair Sen. Margarita Prentice, House Speaker Frank Chopp, U.S. Senator Patty Murray, U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell, Spokane Mayor Mary Verner, Spokane County Commissioner Bonnie Mager, Governor Christine Gregoire
- 38) Tell us about your plan for getting your message out to voters. I have retained campaign consultant Christian Sinderman from my last campaign. We will begin polling in late May and have a multi-media (direct-mail, TV, radio, earned media) campaign which is focused on my 20 years of achievements as a local community and business leader. Our messaging will center on jobs, economic growth, education and healthcare.
- 39) Please list four family members and their relationship to you. If school age, what school do they attend? Christine Marr (spouse); Taylor Marr (son), WSU graduate; Talia Marr (daughter) WSU student; Chery Akaba-Marr (sister), teacher, Elk Grove School District, CA.
- 40) Please list name of campaign manager, campaign Web site address, campaign mailing address, campaign e-mail, office phone number, campaign manager cell phone Campaign Manager: Marcus Sweetser
Website: www.VoteChrisMarr.com
Mailing address: PO Box 2025.
Spokane, WA 99210
Email: info@VoteChrisMarr.com
Office: (509) 290-6708
Vell: (509) 599-2427

- 41)Organizational memberships (church, community, service, social, union, professional, etc.): Member, Spokane Buddhist Church
Trustee, Life Sciences Discovery Fund
Board Member, Group Health Foundation
- 42)Education: A.A., Santa Barbara City College
B.A., Marketing major, summa cum laude, San Francisco State University
M.B.A., Finance emphasis, San Francisco State University
- 43)Brief employment history: 1986-2006 Managing Partner, Foothills Auto Group, Spokane, WA
1982-1985 Area Supervisor, McDonald's Corporation, Kirkland, WA
1979-1982 Zone Manager, Lincoln-Mercury Division, Ford Motor Co., Kirkland, WA