

**Washington Education Association Political Action Committee
2010 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire**



Candidate: Lillian Kaufer

Office Sought: State Senate – 44th LD

These are my official positions in seeking state office.

Candidate Signature: *Lillian Kaufer*

Date: 5/4/10

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 XX Oppose

Please explain your position:

I personally supported Initiative 732. Teachers should be paid appropriately and have COLA's restored.

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 XX Oppose

Please explain your position:

As in any field, educators invest time and finances to become accredited educators and should be paid accordingly. My own daughter wishes to be a science teacher but has serious reservations about going into the education field as she worries she will not earn enough to pay her college debt.

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 XX Oppose

Please explain your position:

Teachers should be part of the process in developing compensation as any other unionized field.

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 XX Oppose

Please explain your position:

I fully support collective bargaining and the right to organize in the workplace. I support the Initiative for a state income tax to fully and permanently fund education.

WEA opposes differentiated pay based on the subject taught.

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

Please explain your position:

I'm not sure, would like more explanation and discussion as to why and the differences.

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 XX Oppose

Please explain your position:

I fully support this, As educators increase and continue to improve their own education and training, their work would be worth more to the school district and state.

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 XX Oppose

Please explain your position:

I support this position as well. Many cannot wait till 65 to retire due to health and other issues and should be entitled to their pensions dependent on years of service.

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 XX Oppose _____

Please explain your position:

I totally agree and will support the income tax initiative to fully fund education. Should that fail, education must remain a priority in State funding. If the legislature cannot come up with funding and the initiative fails, then they will need to go back to this issue and readdress what can be afforded.

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 XX Oppose _____

Please explain your position:

I personally supported this initiative as well. It has not come to fruition. Some children need additional attention and can easily get lost in the crowd. My daughter is a straight A honor student but struggles in Calculus. We have had to tutor her as she cannot get time with the instructor other than a few minutes before classes begin.

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 XX Oppose _____

Please explain your position:

Educators must be part and parcel of any resolution to our education situation. I support fact based and researched approaches to education. I have followed the horrible bill in Florida which cut educators concerns out of the development of their bill which was vetoed by Gov. Crist. The legislature must work with all stakeholders involved in the process and find common ground.

WEA opposes linking teacher evaluations to student test scores.

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

Please explain your position:

I oppose tying teacher evaluations to student scores because there are too many variables for testing. Children may have emotional or educational issues, no support in the home etc. I do not think it is fair to put the career of an educator in the hands of students who will not all perform or have the ability to perform the same. Unless an educator has a track which may include testing scores, there should be a broader view in teacher evaluations.

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 XX Oppose _____

Please explain your position:

I agree and support the WEA's position. There are clearly interests seeking avenues to dislodge and weaken public education and the motives of those should be considered.

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 XX _____

Please explain your position:

I was very opposed to the WASL but do feel students do need to be held to some standard of learning, as it is in many other countries. Whether the HSPE is the right way to go I am still unsure. I would like to see an overall picture of student career in addition to testing as the requirement and not an all or nothing approach.

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 XX Oppose _____

Please explain your position:

I fully believe in the right to organize and bargain collectively. I am from a union family and believe unions provide democracy in the workplace.

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 XX 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 XX Oppose _____

Please explain your position:

Again, I support an individual who has invested a tremendous amount of time and money to educate and train themselves and should be compensated accordingly.

Education Experience

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

Aside from a 10th grade English teacher, I had very little influence from my education. I was not focused or interested in schooling at that point of my life. I had severe family issues going on and my focus was simply finishing and getting out of Las Vegas as soon as possible. I moved to California at 18 and worked two jobs while attending Barclay's to earn my paralegal degree. I have supported myself since I was 18 and worked hard to support myself and my family own along with my husband.

I've had more involvement with education through my children and envy the relationship my children have with a number of their teachers. I wish I had been encouraged and supported they way they have.

Campaign Plans

Please describe your campaign plan for fundraising and doorbelling.

I will be focused on raising approximately \$60-75k, will be doorbelling at least 5,000 doors by the August primary and will run a positive campaign that will address the issues affecting families in my district. I have set \$40k for direct voter contact.

Please list endorsements by noteworthy elected officials.

I have only just begun but have already interviewed with Women's Political Caucus, UFCW, Laborers, Snohomish County Labor, Machinists and am waiting to meet with many others.

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

In addition to direct voter contact through doorbelling, I will hold 10-12 coffees at local coffee shops and invite surrounding voters to join me in town hall type meetings to discuss the issues important to them. I plan to have a voter contact program which will include at least 5 mailers and some cable spots as the campaign nears election.

CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

NAME Lillian Kaufer

HOME STREET ADDRESS 15206 67th Drive SE

CITY & ZIP Snohomish, 98296

CELL PHONE 425-345-2703

HOME PHONE

<i>Family Members</i>	<i>Relationship</i>	<i>If school age, what school do they attend?</i>
Patrick Kaufer	Husband	
Blair Kaufer	Daughter	Western WA University, science BA
Bridgett Kaufer	Daughter	Glacier Peak Sophmore

CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

CAMPAIGN MANAGER David Kelly

CAMPAIGN ADDRESS 15206 67th Drive SE,
Lilliankaufer@gmail.com

CAMPAIGN E-MAIL
Snohomish, WA 98296

OFFICE PHONE 425-345-2703
350-4178

CAMPAIGN MGR CELL PHONE 425-

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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

44th District Democrats
CASA – Guardian ad Litem
Former Girl Scouts leader

EDUCATION

High School diploma
Paralegal Certification with Barclay's College, CA
Some college at Edmonds, English, psychology and math

BRIEF EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Paralegal – Lane Powell, Seattle

Law Offices of William D. Hochberg – paralegal, workman's compensation

LKI Family Services – Visitation supervisor