



2012 Legislative Ratings

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Washington Conservative Union

Washington Conservative Union was formed in 1978 to promote the philosophy of principled conservatism in Washington State. We fully adopt the Statement of Principles of our affiliate, the American Conservative Union, which makes clear our support for free markets, limited government and confidence in traditional moral values.

As a multi-issue umbrella organization, we seek to support and work with the many effective specialized organizations active in Washington State supporting similar goals and to coordinate with the American Conservative Union on projects national in scope.

You may contact Washington Conservative Union at:

12043 184th Avenue NE, Redmond, WA 98052 or

www.WashingtonConservativeUnion.org

Legislative Action Principles

Washington Conservative Union rates Washington State legislators on the basis of how their legislative votes conform to the following principles.

Promotes Strong Families

The family is the basic unit of society. Policies that respect stronger families benefit us all.

Promotes Responsible, Taxpayer-friendly Fiscal Policies

Taxes to support necessary functions of government should be based on sound economic principles; taxpayer dollars should be spent prudently to promote the core functions of government.

Maintains a Responsible Criminal Justice System

The first duty of government is to provide for the security of its citizens and their property in a manner that is consistent with personal liberty.

Fosters a sound educational system for Washington's youth

Today's students must have the opportunity to attain the skills and knowledge that will equip them to lead lives of productive citizenship; competition, parental choice and school accountability all aid in achieving this goal.

Assures Limited Government / Deregulation / Privatization

Every increase in the size of government must be tested against this question: does the expected benefit justify the economic cost and the resulting reduction in human freedom.

Recognizes Constitutional Protections

The state and federal constitutions are the foundation for our liberty and our system of government; they should be the standards by which every legislative bill and government action is first judged.

Senate Vote Descriptions (2012)

Promotes Strong Families

01 - Oppose same-sex marriage. SB 6239 provides that same-sex unions will henceforth be called “marriage” and eliminates any legal distinction between civil unions and traditional marriage. Passed the Senate 28-21 and became law. A “no” vote recognizes that families are the cornerstone of society.

Promotes Responsible, Taxpayer – friendly Fiscal Policies

02 - Reject budget gimmicks. SB 5967, the Supplemental Operating Budget, balances the budget without shifting large unfunded obligations to the future. Passed the Senate 25-24. A compromise version became law. A “yes” vote is in favor of responsible budgeting.

03 - Require state to balance its budget. SB 6636 extends the requirement that the state balance its budget to four years. Passed the Senate 38-9 and became law. A “yes” vote favors fiscal responsibility.

04 - Reform public pension system. SB 6378 alters the current public employee “defined benefit” pension program to bring them more into line with retirement plans of most citizens for new employees. Passed the Senate 27-22 and became law. A “yes” vote is a vote against profligate spending of taxpayer dollars.

05 - Oppose tax increases. SB 6455 increases various transportation tax and license fees including establishing a \$1.50 per barrel tax on each barrel of oil refined within the state. Passed the Senate 31-18, but did not become law at session’s end. A “no” vote opposes job-killing taxes.

Maintains a Responsible Criminal Justice System

06 - Oppose special tribal rights. HB 2233 establishes procedures for retrogression of civil and criminal jurisdiction to tribes. Passed the Senate 42-6 and became law. A “no” vote supports uniform rights for all citizens.

Fosters a sound educational system for Washington’s youth

07 - Provide performance review of teachers. SB 5895 requires consideration of teacher performance in layoffs. Passed Senate 46-3 and became law. A “yes” vote gives school districts essential tools to improve quality,

08 - Provide budgeting flexibility. By repealing Initiative 827 which earmarked funds for class size reduction HB 2824 recognizes that class size is not the only element of educational success. Passed the Senate 28-20. A “yes” vote allows budgeting flexibility.

09 - Support pay equity for teachers. SB 5940 requires teachers to assume a portion of the cost of their health insurance. Passed the Senate 35-20 and became law. A “yes” vote brings teacher benefits more in line with the private sector.

Assures Limited Government/ deregulation/privatization

10 - Reject government sponsored Health insurance. HB 2319 implements the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare). Passed the Senate 27-22. and became law. A “no” vote opposes federal take-over of health insurance.

Recognizes Constitutional Protections

11 - Recognize the Second Amendment. Over opposition from politicians opposed to Second Amendment rights, SB 6123 creates an NRA license plate with proceeds to fund gun safety classes. Passed the Senate 36-13 but died in the House. A “yes” vote shows openness to Second Amendment rights.

House Vote Descriptions (2012)

Promotes Strong Families

01 - Oppose same-sex marriage. SB 6239 provides that same sex unions will henceforth be called “marriage” and eliminates any legal distinction between civil unions and traditional marriage. Passed the House 55-43 and became law. A “no” vote recognizes that families are the cornerstone of society.

02 - Respect Diversity. HB 2330 mandates inclusion of abortion coverage in any health plan covering maternity benefits. Passed the House 52-46 but died in the Senate. A “no” vote supports individual freedom of conscience.

Promotes Responsible, Taxpayer Friendly Fiscal Policies

03 - Reject budget gimmicks. HB 2127, the Supplemental Operating Budget, balances the budget but only by deferring large unfunded obligations to the future. Passed the House 53-45. A compromise version became law. A “no” vote is in favor of responsible budgeting.

04 - Require the state to balance its budget. SB 6636 extends the requirement that the state balance its budget to four years. Passed the House 76-19 and became law. A “yes” vote favors fiscal responsibility.

05 - Reform public pension system. SB 6378 alters the current public employee “defined benefit” pension program to bring them more into line with retirement plans of most citizens for new employees. Passed the House 56-42 and became law. A “yes” vote is a vote against profligate spending of taxpayer dollars.

06 - Oppose tax increases. SB 6455 increases various transportation tax and license fees including establishing a \$1.50 per barrel tax on each barrel of oil refined within the state and increases various taxes and fees. Passed the House 55-43, but did not become law at session’s end. A “no” vote opposes job-killing taxes.

Maintains a Responsible Criminal Justice System

07 - Oppose Special Tribal Rights. HB 2233 establishes procedure for retrogression of civil and criminal jurisdiction to tribes. Passed House 59-38 and became law. A “no” vote supports uniform rights for all citizens.

Fosters a sound educational system for Washington’s youth

08 - Provide performance review of teachers. SB 5895 requires consideration of teacher performance in layoffs.. Passed the House 82-16 and became law. A “yes” vote gives school districts essential tools to improve quality,

09 - Provide budgeting flexibility. By repealing Initiative 827 which earmarked funds for class size reduction HB 2824 recognizes that class size is not the only element of educational success. Passed the House 82-16. A “yes” vote allows budgeting flexibility.

10 - Support pay equity for teachers. SB 5940 requires teachers to assume a portion of the cost of their health insurance. Passed the House 53-45 and became law. A “yes” vote brings teacher benefits more in line with the private sector.

Assures Limited Government/ deregulation/privatization

11 - Reject government sponsored health insurance. HB 2319 implements the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare). Passed the House 55-41 and became law. A “no” vote opposes federal take-over of health insurance.

Recognizes Constitutional Protections

No rated votes.