

2010 Legislative Ratings

Washington Conservative Union Legislative Action Principles

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

1. **Promotes Strong Families**
The family is the basic unit of society. Policies that respect stronger families benefit us all.
2. **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.
3. **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.
4. **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.
5. **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.
6. **Recognizes Constitutional Protections**
The state and federal constitutions are the foundation for our liberty and our system of government and they should be the standards by which every legislative bill and government action is first judged.

WASHINGTON STATE SENATE

Promotes Strong Families

No rated votes.

Promotes Responsible, Taxpayer Friendly Fiscal Policies

1. Oppose Delayed “Jobs Bill.” HB 2561 submits to voter approval \$861 million in bonds for public works. Despite being sold as a “jobs bill” in hard times, the jobs would not be created for several years. Passed the Senate 28-18 and became law. A “no” vote opposes tax increases
2. Oppose Excess Spending. SB 6444, the Supplemental Operating Budget, increases state spending in a time of revenue shortfall. Passed the Senate 25-21 and became law. A “no” vote is a taxpayer-friendly vote.
3. Oppose Increased Taxes. Instead of cutting spending, SB 6143 increases a variety of taxes to allow continued expansion of state spending. Passed the Senate 25-21 and became law. A “no” vote opposes tax increases.
4. Oppose Increased Local Taxes. HB 3179 authorizes local governments to increase sales taxes by 0.1% through 2015. Passed the Senate 28-18 and became law. A “no” vote is taxpayer friendly.
5. Preserve “Rainy Day” Balances. HB 3197 transfers funds from rainy day fund to general fund for immediate use, instead of holding them in reserve for the difficult biennial budget next year. Passed the Senate 30-14 and became law. A “no” vote is a vote for fiscal prudence.
6. Retain Voter-Designated Limits on Tax Increases. SB 6130 dismantles Initiative 960 which requires 2/3 vote to increase taxes. Passed the Senate 26-22 and became law. A “no” vote respects the will of the voters.

Maintains a Responsible Criminal Justice System

No rated votes.

Fosters a sound educational system for Washington’s youth.

No rated votes.

Assures Limited Government/deregulation/privatization

7. Avoid Unneeded Restrictions on Political Activity. SB 6449 would have expanded PDC regulatory authority over individuals and companies paid to gather signatures. Passed the Senate 29-19 but died in the House. A “no” vote opposes expanding regulatory authority over political activities.

Recognizes Constitutional Protections

8. Protect Voter Privacy. SB 6754 would have required that the names of initiative petition signers be public records and open to inspections and copying. Passed the Senate 29-19 but died in the House. A “no” vote opposes voter intimidation.
9. Oppose Contribution Limits. SB 6344 limits campaign contributions to \$800 for candidates in races for local offices. Passed the Senate 35-11 and became law. A “no” vote recognizes that campaign contributions are free speech.

WASHINGTON STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Promotes Strong Families

1. Oppose Expansion of “Domestic Partner” Privileges. HB 2793 expands legal claims involving “gestational surrogacy” and the rights of registered domestic partners regarding children. Passed the House 59-39 but died in the Senate. A “no” vote supports marriage.

Promotes Responsible, Taxpayer Friendly Fiscal Policies

2. Oppose Delayed “Jobs Bill.” HB 2561 submits to voter approval \$861 million in bonds prop for public works. Despite being sold as a “jobs bill” in hard times, the jobs would not be created for several years. Passed the House 59-38 and became law. A “no” vote opposes tax increases.
3. Oppose Excess Spending. SB 6444, the Supplemental Operating Budget, increases state spending in a time of revenue shortfall. Passed the House 54-43 and became law. A “no” vote is a taxpayer-friendly vote.
4. Oppose Increased Taxes. Instead of cutting spending, SB 6143 increases a variety of taxes to allow continued expansion of state spending. Passed the House 52-42 and became law. A “no” vote opposes tax increases.
5. Oppose Increased Local Taxes. HB 3179 authorizes local governments to increase sales taxes by 0.3% through 2015. Passed the House initially 51-47 and became law as amended. A “no” vote is a taxpayer friendly vote.
6. Preserve “Rainy Day” Balances. HB 3197 transfers funds from rainy day fund to general fund for immediate use, instead of holding them in reserve for the difficult biennial budget next year. Passed the House 69-28 and became law. A “no” vote is a vote for fiscal prudence.
7. Retain Voter-Designated Limits on Tax Increases. SB 6130 dismantles Initiative 960 which requires 2/3 vote to increase taxes. Passed the House 51-47 and became law. A “no” voter respects the will of the voters.

Maintains a Responsible Criminal Justice System

No rated votes.

Fosters a sound educational system for Washington’s youth.

No rated votes.

Assures Limited Government/deregulation/privatization

8. Oppose State Mandated Unions of Private Workers. HB 1329 would impose unionization on all private child care providers if even a single state-funded child is served by their facility regardless of desire of employees. Passed the House 62-35 but died in the Senate. A “no” vote supports the freedom of the workplace.
9. Avoid State-Mandated Terms of Employment. HB 3024 would require all hospitals to adopt rules for nurses breaks meet “accepted standards” (i.e., the most generous union rules). Passed the House 63-34 but died in the Senate. A “no” vote preserves the rights of local management and employees to work together.
10. Avoid Excessive Regulation. HB 2444 would have established a new state mandate requiring employers to permit additional leave to employees each year for four hours for parental school visits. Passed the House 54-40 but died in the Senate. A “no” vote allows freedom of the work place.
11. Assert Tenth Amendment Rights. HB 2669, the “state health care freedom act,” would prohibit imposition of Obama-care insurance mandates on Washington citizens. A procedural motion to advance it to consideration failed 36-58. A “yes” vote supports consumer freedom.

Recognizes Constitutional Protections

12. Preserve election integrity. HB 1572 would have required “all mail voting” by all counties. In-person voting is a significant anti-fraud measure. Passed the House 57-41 but died in the Senate. A “no” vote supports transparent and honest elections.
13. Oppose Contribution Limits. SB 6344 limits campaign contributions to \$800 to candidates in races for local offices. Passed the House 90-6 and became law. A “no” vote recognizes that campaign contributions are free speech.