



2005 Legislative Ratings

Richard Derham, Chairman

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. Promoting Strong Families

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

2. Promoting 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. Maintaining 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. Fostering 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. Assuring 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. Recognizing 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

Senate Vote Descriptions (2005)

Promotes Strong Families

1. Oppose human cloning research. After the House deleted a prohibition on use of state funds for research on human cloning, SB 5581 returned to the Senate for final passage, passed the Senate 25-24 and became law. A “no” vote supports respect for life.
2. Reject homosexuality as a protected class. HB 1515 would have expanded the jurisdiction of the Human Rights Commission to hear and adjudicate complaints about discrimination on the basis of “sexual orientation.” The bill was defeated in the Senate 24-25. A “no” vote is a pro-family vote.
3. Permit state monopoly sales of liquor on Sundays. HB 1379 requires certain liquor stores to be open on Sunday. It passed the Senate 31-17 and became law. A “no” vote is a family-friendly vote.

Promotes Responsible, Taxpayer Friendly Fiscal Policies

4. Respect voter-approved limitations on tax and spending. SB 6078 eliminates requirement for a two-thirds vote to raise taxes adopted by the voters in prior initiative 601. Passed Senate 25-21 and became law. A “no” vote respects taxpayer- mandated limitations on taxes.
5. Preserve levy limitations. The state constitution protects property owners by requiring that special property tax levies may be imposed only by a 60% majority of the voters. SJR 8202 would permit property tax levies by a majority vote. The measure failed in the Senate 25-23. A “no” vote is a taxpayer friendly vote.
6. Oppose death taxes. SB 6096 reestablishes in Washington State the estate tax repealed by voter initiative in the 1980s. The measure passed the Senate 25-21 and became law. A “no” vote is a taxpayer friendly vote.
7. Oppose increase to gas tax. SB 6103 increases Washington’s gas tax fifteen cents over the next 11 years. The bill passed the Senate 26-22 and became law. A “no” vote is a taxpayer friendly vote.

Maintains a Responsible Criminal Justice System

8. Avoid trivial regulations. HB 1615 makes it a crime to drive a car in which stereo equipment (but not other equipment) is not tied down. It passed the Senate 30-18 and became law. A “no” vote is a vote against petty criminalization by an overactive state.

Fosters a sound educational system for Washington’s youth.

9. Preserve sound testing for accountability. HB 1068 eliminates norm-based testing. The bill passed Senate 27-22 and became law. A “no” vote is a vote for preserving educational standards.

Assures Limited Government/deregulation/privatization

10. Avoid excessive requirements on public contracts. SB 5097 increases the cost of construction on public works projects by mandating use of “apprentices” beyond what would be required for the job. The bill passed Senate 27-19 and became law. A “no” vote is a vote in favor of reasonable regulation of business.
11. Avoid unreasonable taxation of business. HB 2255 rescinds a careful balance in calculating unemployment taxes between seasonal and full year workers and makes Washington a less competitive place for employers. It Passed the Senate 25-22 and became law. A “no” vote is a vote for job creation.
12. Oppose costly and questionable emission standards. HB 1397 adopts California emission standards for cars, increasing the cost of cars and hurting Washington consumers. It passed the Senate 29-19 and became law. A “no” vote is a vote to avoid costly regulations.
13. Avoid excessive “entitlements.” SB 5069 would have established a new tax on workers to fund a state-provided five week “family leave” for new children or sickness in the family. It passed the Senate 27-20 but died in the House. A “no” vote is a vote to keep Washington’s business climate healthy.

Recognizes Constitutional Protections

14. Reject “impact fees” that burden property rights. One of the ways governments restrict a property owner’s use of his property is to charge heavy “impact fees” for the right to develop. Under SB 5164, even the Department of Highways would have that power. The bill passed the Senate, 27-21 but died in the House. A “no” vote respects property rights.
15. Require election law integrity. An amendment to SB 5499 would have required that an applicant for voter registration show proof of citizenship. The amendment failed 22-25. A vote “yes” is a vote in favor of honest elections.

House Vote Descriptions (2005)

Promotes Strong Families

1. Oppose human cloning research. In SB 5581 an amendment would have reinstated a Senate prohibition of the use of state funds for research on human cloning. The amendment failed 40-53, and the bill became law. A “yes” vote supports respect for life.
2. Reject homosexuality as a protected class. HB 1515 would have expanded the jurisdiction of the Human Rights Commission to hear and adjudicate complaints about discrimination on the basis of “sexual orientation.” The bill passed the House 61-37. A “no” vote is a pro-family vote.
3. Permit state monopoly sales of liquor on Sundays. HB 1379 requires certain liquor stores to be open on Sunday. It passed the House 62-34 and became law. A “no” vote is a family-friendly vote.
4. Reject mandatory sex education classes. HB 1282 would have required every school district to provide sex education including a range of family planning options. The bill passed the House 61-36 but died in the Senate. A “no” vote supports parental control over values education.

Promotes Responsible, Taxpayer Friendly Fiscal Policies

5. Respect voter-approved limitations on tax and spending. SB 6078 eliminates requirement for a two-thirds vote to raise taxes adopted by the voters in prior initiative 601. Passed the House 50-43 and became law. A “no” vote respects taxpayer mandated limitations on taxes.
6. Preserve levy limitations. The state constitution protects property owners by requiring that special property tax levies may be imposed only by a 60% majority of the voters. HJR 4205 would permit property tax levies by a majority vote. The measure passed the House 73-25. A “no” vote is a taxpayer friendly vote
7. Oppose death taxes. SB 6096 establishes in Washington State the estate tax repealed by voter initiative in the 1980s. The measure passed the House 50-48 and became law. A “no” vote is a taxpayer friendly vote.
8. Oppose gas tax increase SB 6103 increases Washington’s gas tax fifteen cents over the next 11 years. The bill passed the House 54-43 and became law. A “no” vote is a taxpayer friendly vote.

Maintains a Responsible Criminal Justice System

9. Avoid Trivial Regulations. HB 1615 makes it a crime to drive a car in which stereo equipment (but not other equipment) is not tied down. It passed the House 82-16 and became law. A “no” vote is a vote against petty criminalization by an overactive state.

Fosters a sound educational system for Washington’s youth.

10. Support objective history classes. HB 1495 would have required school districts to defer to local Indian tribes to determine the content of curricula dealing with tribal history. It passed the House 78-18, but the objectionable provisions were removed in the Senate. A “no” vote is a vote for objective educational standards.

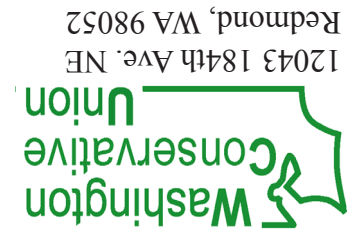
Assures Limited Government/deregulation/privatization

11. Avoid excessive requirements on public contracts. SB 5097 increases the cost of construction on public works projects by mandating use of “apprentices” beyond what would be required for the job. The bill passed House 58-40 and became law. A “no” vote is a vote in favor of reasonable regulation of business.
12. Avoid unreasonable taxation of business. HB 2255 rescinds a careful balance in calculating unemployment taxes between seasonal and full year workers and makes Washington a less competitive place for employers. It passed the House 57-38 and became law. A “no” vote is a vote for job creation.
13. Oppose costly and questionable emission standards. HB 1397 adopts California emission standards for cars, increasing the cost of cars and hurting Washington consumers. It passed the House 53-42 and became law. A “no” vote is a vote to avoid costly regulations.
14. Support economic freedom. HB 2257 would grant broad discretion to state agencies to consider “the best interests of the state” as well as cost and quality in awarding contracts, in an effort to prevent use of foreign suppliers. Passed the House 61-35 but died in the Senate. A “no” vote supports economic freedom.

Recognizes Constitutional Protections

15. Require election law integrity. An amendment to SB 5499 would have required that an applicant for voter registration show proof of citizenship. The amendment failed 43-53. A vote “yes” is a vote in favor of honest elections.

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Washington Conservative Union

The 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 the Washington Conservative Union at:

12043 184th Avenue NE, Redmond, WA 98052 or
www.WashingtonConservativeUnion.org