



2006 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 (2006)

Promotes Strong Families

1. Reject homosexuality as a protected class. HB 2661 expands the jurisdiction of the Human Rights Commission to hear and adjudicate complaints about discrimination on the basis of “sexual orientation.” The bill passed the Senate 25-23 and became law. A “no” vote is a pro-family vote.
2. Oppose Use of Medicaid for Sex Change Operations. An amendment to SB 6386 to prohibit use of Medicaid to finance sex-change operations passed Senate 32-12 but was removed from budget before final passage. A “yes” vote restricts scarce Medicaid funds to higher priority health care for Washington’s poor.

Promotes Responsible, Taxpayer Friendly Fiscal Policies

3. Restrain Increase in State Spending. SB 6386 increases spending by \$1.3 billion, in a spending budget that far exceeds “supplemental” spending. It passed Senate 26-17. A “no” vote supports prudent fiscal policies.
4. Preserve voter-approved spending limits. SB 6896 dealt with state employee pensions. An amendment to preserve Initiative 601 spending limits failed 22-26. A “yes” vote preserves the voter-approved spending limits and is a taxpayer friendly vote.
5. Oppose Tax Preference for Indian-owned Gas Stations. SB 6785 would reverse a court-established exemption for gas tax collected by gas stations on Indian reservations. Passed Senate 30-14 but failed in the House. A “yes” vote supports equality of taxpayers.
6. Avoid New State Entitlement Spending. HB 2572 establishes taxpayer subsidies to provide health insurance for small business. Passed Senate 25-23 and became law. A “no” vote opposes a special interest raid on the state treasury.

Maintains a Responsible Criminal Justice System

7. Avoid trivializing criminal law. SB 5160 would have prohibited driving while using a cell phone, whether resulting driving is affected or not. Passed Senate 28-19 and died in the House. A “no” vote opposed trivialization of the criminal law.

Fosters a sound educational system for Washington’s youth.

8. Oppose State Involvement in Parent-School District Disputes. HB 3127 creates the office of State Education Ombudsman to resolve disputes between parents and local school districts. Passed Senate 27-21 and became law. A “no” vote opposes centralizing power in the state government.

Assures Limited Government/deregulation/privatization

9. Preserve consumer choice in the market place. SB 6508 interferes with market choices of consumers by requiring all diesel fuel to include 2% biodeisel. Passed Senate 29-19 and became law. A “no” vote supports economic freedom.
10. Oppose Increased Government Regulation of Terms of Employment. SB 6185 Expands Family Medical Leave Act establishing required amounts of leave that must be provided for children, dependents and domestic partners. Passed Senate 37-17 and became law. A “no” vote is a vote in favor of letting businesses and employees set terms of employment.
11. Oppose Steps Toward State-Sponsored Health Insurance. SB 6197 creates a Council on Health Disparities to develop an action plan for eliminating “health disparities” among Washington citizens. Passed the Senate on final passage 38-10 and became law. A “no” vote opposes a step toward mandatory insurance plans.

Recognizes Constitutional Protections

12. Oppose Taxpayer-funded election campaigns. SB 6221 would have eliminated the voter-approved prohibition of use of public funds for local campaigns, including county, city, town, school district, and port district offices. The bill passed Senate 27-22 but died in the House. A “no” vote keeps the government out of supporting candidates for political office.
13. Oppose Limitations on First Amendment Freedoms. HB 1226 establishes campaign contribution limits for judicial races and county races in larger counties. Passed the Senate 36-11 and became law. A “no” vote opposes restriction of political speech.

House Vote Descriptions (2006)

Promotes Strong Families

1. Reject homosexuality as a protected class. HB 2661 expands 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 and became law. A “no” vote is a pro-family vote.
2. Oppose taxpayer funded sex change operations. Amendment to SB 6386 to prohibit use of Medicaid to finance sex-change operations. Passed in House 64-32 but was removed from budget before final passage. A “no” vote restricts scarce Medicaid funds to higher priority health care for Washington’s poor.

Promotes Responsible, Taxpayer Friendly Fiscal Policies

3. Restrain Increase in State Spending. SB 6386 increases spending by \$1.3 billion, in a spending budget that far exceeds “supplemental” spending. It passed House 55-43. A “no” vote supports prudent fiscal policies.
4. Preserve voter-approved spending limits. SB 6896 dealt with state employee pensions. An amendment to preserve Initiative 601 spending limits failed 47-51. A “no” vote preserves the voter-approved spending limits and is a taxpayer friendly vote.
5. Avoid New State Entitlement Spending. HB 2572 establishes taxpayer subsidies to provide health insurance for small business. Passed the House 56-42 and became law. A “no” vote opposes a special interest raid on the state treasury.
6. Oppose New Government Subsidy for Business. HB 1815 would have established state funding program for organizations that help small businesses. Passed House 69-29. but died in the Senate. A “no” vote opposes creation of one more taxpayer-subsidized interference in the market place.

Fosters a sound educational system for Washington’s youth.

7. Oppose State Involvement in Parent-School District Disputes. HB 3127 creates the office of State Education Ombudsman to resolve disputes between parents and local school districts. Passed House 60-36 and became law. A “no” vote opposes centralizing power in the state government.

Assures Limited Government/deregulation/ privatization

8. Preserve consumer choice in the market place. SB 6508 interferes with market choices of consumers by requiring all diesel fuel to include 2% biodiesel. Passed House 68-30 and became law. A “no” vote supports economic freedom.
9. Oppose Increased Government Regulation of Terms of Employment. SB 6185 expands Family Medical Leave Act establishing required amounts of leave that must be provided for children, dependents and domestic partners. Passed House 55-44 and became law. A “no” vote is a vote in favor of letting businesses and employees set terms of employment.
10. Oppose Steps Toward State-Sponsored Health Insurance. SB 6197 creates a Council on Health Disparities to develop an action plan for eliminating “health disparities” among Washington citizens. Passed the House on final passage 58-40 and became law. A “no” vote opposes a step toward mandatory insurance plans.
11. Oppose government mandates on hospital prices. HB 2574 would have required hospitals to charge uninsured patients based on patient’s income. Passed House 60-38 and died in Senate. A “no” vote preserves freedom in the market place.

Recognizes Constitutional Protections

12. Oppose Limitations on First Amendment Freedoms. HB 1226 establishes campaign contribution limits for judicial races and county races in larger counties. Passed the House 56-40 and became law. A “no” vote opposes restriction of political speech.
13. Support Property Owner Rights. HB 2815 would have established new statewide “management recommendations” for use by local governments in regulating critical areas, thus, effectively, centralizing more land use restrictions at the state level. The bill passed the House 57-41 but died in the senate. A “no” vote opposes centralized land use decisions.

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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.

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