



# 2007 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 judged.

## Senate Vote Descriptions (2007)

### Promotes Strong Families

1. SB 5336. Oppose special recognition to “domestic partners.” SB 5336 grants to gay, but not heterosexual, unmarried couples certain privileges associated with marriage. Passed Senate 28-19 and became law. A “no” vote is a pro-family vote.
2. SB 5297. Retain “abstinence only” sex-education option. SB 5297 bans “abstinence only” sex-education by requiring that every sex ed program that includes abstinence must also include contraception, regardless of local school board preference. Passed Senate 30-19 and became law. A “no” vote is a pro-family vote.

### Promotes Responsible, Taxpayer-Friendly Fiscal Policies

3. HB 1128. Oppose fiscal irresponsibility. HB 1128 increases spending to a record \$33.25 billion. It passed the Senate 30-17 and became law. A “no” vote supports prudent fiscal policies.
4. SJR 8206. Impose limits on growth of state budget. SJR 8206 requires placement of 1% of state revenues each year in a “rainy day” fund which can be used only if 60% of each house approves or the Governor declares an emergency. Passed Senate 45-3 and will appear on the fall ballot. A “yes” vote supports prudent fiscal restraint.
5. HJR 4204. 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 4204 would permit property tax levies by a majority vote. Passed Senate 33-16 and will appear on fall ballot. A “no” vote is a taxpayer friendly vote.
6. SB 5093. Single-payor health care for children. Described as “Hillary Care for children,” SB 5093 creates a new entitlement program for children under 19 whose families earn less than two-and-a-half times the poverty level. Passed Senate 38-9 and became law. A “no” vote opposes a new costly entitlement program.

### Maintains a Responsible Criminal Justice System

7. HB 1128. Require tougher conditions on early release. A proposed amendment to HB 1128 would have required that any prisoner released on early release who reoffends will have his early release vacated and will return to serve out his original sentence. Defeated in the Senate 18-29. A “yes” vote supports responsible sentencing and law and order.

Fosters a sound educational system for Washington's youth.

8. SB 5269. Retain qualification standards for teachers. SB 5269 permits tribal members to teach tribal culture, history and language in public schools without passing normal certification standards. Passed Senate 32-15 and became law. A “no” vote opposes special interest history standards.

### Assures Limited Government/deregulation/privatization

9. SB 5659. Avoid excessive entitlements. SB 5659 establishes a new state-provided five-week “family leave” for workers with new children or sickness in the family. Prior versions taxed all workers to fund this entitlement. As adopted, the funding source was deferred to a future legislature. Passed Senate 26-21 and became law. A “no” vote supports a healthy business climate and individual responsibility.
10. HB 1898. Avoid excessive requirements on public contracts. HB 1898 increases the cost of construction on public works products by mandating use of “apprentices” beyond what would be required for the job. The bill passed the Senate 34-14 and became law. A “no” vote supports reasonable regulation of business.
11. HB 1460. Oppose additional mandates on health care insurance. HB 1828 will increase the cost of health insurance by mandating inclusion of mental health coverage on the same basis as medical and surgical coverage. The measure passed the Senate 41-3 and became law. A “no” vote avoids excessive government interference in the free market.
12. SB 6001. Oppose draconian environmental regulations. SB 6001 requires that Washington reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 level by 2020 and 50% below that level by 2050. Passed Senate 37-10 and became law. A “no” vote opposes imposing destructive regulations upon our economy.

### Recognizes Constitutional Protections

13. SB 5561. Oppose reducing protections for honest elections. SB 5561 would permit individuals to register on election day. Passed Senate 28-19, but died in the House. A “no” vote is a vote against an erosion of standards of integrity in elections.
14. HB 2079. Oppose forced political contributions. HB 2079 reverses a voter-approved initiative and permits unions to use mandatory fees from non-members for political purposes without permission. Passed Senate 29-20 and became law. A “no” vote preserves public employees freedom of political association.
15. SB 6011. Protect property rights. Under the pretext of creating an aquatic reserve, SB 6011 would prohibit use of land on Maury Island for a gravel pit without compensation to the landowner. Passed the Senate 26-22 but died in House Rules. A “no” vote is a vote in favor of property rights.

## House of Representatives Vote Descriptions (2007)

### Promotes Strong Families

1. SB 5336. Oppose special recognition to “domestic partners.” SB 5336 grants to gay, but not heterosexual, unmarried couples certain privileges associated with marriage. Passed House 63-35 and became law. A “no” vote is a pro-family vote.
2. SB 5297. Retain “abstinence only” sex-education option. SB 5297 banned “abstinence only” sex-education by requiring that every sex ed program that includes abstinence must also include contraception, regardless of local school board preference. Passed House 63-34 and became law. A “no” vote is a pro-family vote.

### Promotes Responsible, Taxpayer Friendly Fiscal Policies

3. HB 1128. Restrain increase in state spending. HB 1128 increases spending to a record \$33.25 billion. It passed House 60-30 and became law. A “no” vote supports prudent fiscal policies.
4. SJR 8206. Impose limits on growth of state budget. SJR 8206 requires placement of 1% of state revenues each year in a “rainy day” fund which can be used only if 60% of each house approves or the Governor declares an emergency. Passed House 74-23 and will appear on the fall ballot. A “yes” vote supports prudent fiscal restraint.
5. HJR 4204. 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 4204 would permit property tax levies by a majority vote. Passed House 73-25 and will appear on fall ballot. A “no” vote is a taxpayer friendly vote.
6. SB 5093. Single-payor health care for children. Described as “Hillary Care for children,” SB 5093 will create a new entitlement program for children under 19 whose families earn less than two-and-a-half times the poverty level. Passed House 68-28 and became law. A “no” vote opposes a new costly entitlement program.

### Maintains a Responsible Criminal Justice System

No votes rated.

### Fosters a sound educational system for Washington’s youth.

7. SB 5269. Retain qualification standards for teachers. SB 5269 permits tribal members to teach tribal culture, history and language in public schools without passing normal certification standards. Passed House 70-24 and became law. A “no” vote opposes special interest history standards.
8. HB 1307. Support school district control. HB 1307 deprives public schools of supervisory authority over contents of school publications, in the name of unrestricted free speech for student newspapers.” Passed House 58-37

but died in the Senate. A “no” vote is a vote for responsible administration of school activities.

### Assures Limited Government/deregulation/privatization

9. SB 5659. Avoid excessive entitlements. SB 5659 establishes a new state-provided five-week “family leave” for workers with new children or sickness in the family. Prior versions taxed all workers to fund this entitlement. As adopted, the funding source was deferred to a future legislature. Passed House 57-41 and became law. A “no” vote supports a healthy business climate and individual responsibility.
10. HB 1898. Avoid excessive requirements on public contracts. HB 1898 increases the cost of construction on public works products by mandating use of “apprentices” beyond what would be required for the job. Passed House 69-25 and became law. A “no” vote supports reasonable regulation of business.
11. HB 1460. Oppose additional mandates on health care insurance. HB 1828 will increase the cost of health insurance by mandating inclusion of mental health coverage on the same basis as medical and surgical coverage. The measure passed the House 75-22 and became law. A “no” vote avoids excessive government interference in the free market.
12. SB 6001. Oppose draconian environmental regulations. SB 6001 requires that Washington reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 level by 2020 and 50% below that level by 2050. Passed House 84-14 and became law. A “no” vote opposes imposing destructive regulations upon our economy.

### Recognizes Constitutional Protections

- HB 2079. Oppose forced political contributions. HB 2079 reverses a voter-approved initiative and permits unions to use mandatory fees from non-members for political purposes without permission. Passed the House 55-42 and became law. A “no” vote preserves publ

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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:

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