



2009 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.

WASHINGTON STATE SENATE

Promotes Strong Families

1. Retain reduction of abortion as a state policy. SB 5629 eliminates the objective of reducing the rate of abortion from the stated goals of state's sex education policy. Passed Senate 33-14 and became law. A "no" vote supports reduction of abortion.
2. Oppose expansion of "same sex partnership" benefits. SB 5688 provides that "same sex partnerships" be treated equal to traditional marriage under state law. Passed Senate 30-18 and became law. A "no" vote is a pro-family vote.
3. Oppose subjecting family law to UN treaty. SJM 8012 urges US Senate to ratify a treaty outlawing discrimination against women adopted by UN General Assembly in 1979 but not accepted in the US. Passed Senate 33-14. A "no" vote leaves US Constitution as the definer of our rights.

Promotes Responsible, Taxpayer Friendly Fiscal Policies

4. Support Responsible Budgeting. SJR 8209 proposed a constitutional amendment to enhance the rainy day fund, which requires the state to save funds in good budget years. Passed the Senate 41-7 but died in the House. A "yes" vote supports prudent budgeting
5. Oppose expansion of entitlement programs. HB 2128 expands eligibility of children's health programs of state to three times poverty rate (\$63,600 per year). Passed Senate 30-17 and became law. A "no" vote opposes expansion of single payor insurance.

Maintains a Responsible Criminal Justice System

6. Preserve Post-Incarceration Monitoring of Criminals. SB 5288 reduces supervision of convicted criminals, including major crimes, to save money. Passed Senate 26-23 and became law. A "no" vote supports public safety by assuring adequate transitional supervision for violent criminals.
7. Oppose Subjective Crimes. SB 5952 expands power of prosecutors to prosecute for subjective thoughts by adding transgendered to "hate crime" definition. Passed Senate 36-12 and became law. A "no" vote supports uniform protection of the laws for everyone.

Fosters a sound educational system for Washington's youth.

8. Reject Spurious Reforms. HB 2261 is a costly expansion of "basic education" without results-orient-

ed accountability. Passed Senate 26-23 and became law. A "no" vote opposes fictitious educational reform

Assures Limited Government/deregulation/privatization

9. Oppose economically destructive regulations. SB 5735 would require development of restrictions on residential, transport (cars) and business "green house gas" emissions by 2015. Passed Senate 29-19 but session ended before final passage. A "no" vote supports individual freedom of choice in transportation, housing and economic activity.
10. Oppose Expanded Regulatory power. HB 1709 imposes increased regulations on payday lending, thus limiting access to credit to many citizens. Passed Senate 26-23, and became law. A "no" vote recognizes that the free market is the best regulator of economic decisions.
11. Oppose mandating higher costs. SB 5904 increases cost of public work projects by expanding prevailing wage laws to cover many independent contractors. Passed Senate 27-15 and became law. A "no" vote supports competition in public contracting.
12. Oppose increased job entry requirements. SB 5895 would establish worker certification requirement in home construction. It passed Senate 25-24 but died in the House. A "no" vote opposes barriers to job creation.

Recognizes Constitutional Protections

13. Support Diversity in Athletics. SB 5967 applies Federal Title IX to cities, school districts and other government agency and anyone leasing playing fields from, prohibiting discrimination on sex in community athletics and thus denying male-only or female-only Little League and other sports teams the use of public park facilities. Passed Senate 44-3 on final passage and became law. A "no" vote opposes political correctness gone wild.
14. Oppose "Popular Vote" for Presidential elections. SB 5599 enters into an interstate compact to assign electoral vote based on national popular vote winner if states representing 270 electoral votes do the same. Passed Senate 28-21, and became law. A "no" vote retains Washington citizens' constitutional right to have their votes recorded as cast.
15. Oppose Punitive Reprisals for Political Speech. SB 6035 would revoke the law that allows trade associations to recoup money saved by safety improvements by members in order to penalize use of those funds by one group for political purposes. Passed Senate 25-24 but died in the House. A "no" vote respects freedom of speech.

WASHINGTON STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Promotes Strong Families

1. Retain reduction of abortion as a state policy. SB 5629 eliminates the objective of reducing the rate of abortion from the stated goals of state's sex education policy. Passed House 67-31 and became law. A "no" vote supports reduction of abortion.
2. Oppose expansion of "same sex partnership" benefits. SB 5688 provides that "same sex partnerships" be treated equal to traditional marriage under state law. Passed House 62-35 and became law. A "no" vote is a pro-family vote.
3. Oppose subjecting family law to UN treaty. SJM 8012 urges US Senate to ratify a treaty outlawing discrimination against women adopted by UN General Assembly in 1979 but not accepted in the US. Passed House 74-24. A "no" vote leaves US Constitution as the definer of our rights.

Promotes Responsible, Taxpayer Friendly Fiscal Policies

4. Oppose tax increase. HB 2252 would extend hotel and motel tax due to expire to pay for housing, arts and other projects. A tax extension is a tax increase. Passed House 54-42 but died in the Senate. A "no" vote favors lower taxes.
5. Oppose expansion of entitlement programs. HB 2128 expands eligibility of children's health programs of state to three times poverty rate (\$63,600 per year). Passed House 68-28, and became law. A "no" vote opposes expansion of single payor insurance.
6. Oppose earmarked taxes for essential services. HB 2029 would increase taxes to support enhanced 9-1-1 program. As a tax measure requiring two-thirds vote, it failed House 58-39. A "no" opposes tax increases.

Maintains a Responsible Criminal Justice System

7. Preserve Post-Incarceration Monitoring of Criminals. SB 5288 reduces supervision of convicted criminals, including major crimes, to save money. Passed House 52-45, and became law. A "no" vote supports public safety by assuring adequate transitional supervision for violent criminals.
8. Oppose Subjective Crimes. SB 5952 expands power of prosecutors to prosecute for subjective thoughts by adding transgendered to "hate crime" definition. Passed House 68-30 and became law. A "no" vote supports uniform protection of the laws for everyone.

Fosters a sound educational system for Washington's youth.

9. Reject Spurious Reforms. HB 2261 is a costly expansion of "basic education" without results-oriented accountability. Passed House on final passage 67-31 and became law. A "no" vote opposes fictitious educational reform.

Assures Limited

Government/deregulation/privatization

10. Oppose economically destructive regulations. SB 5735 would require development of restrictions on residential, transport (cars) and business "green house gas" emissions by 2015. Passed House as amended 59-37 but session ended before final passage. A "no" vote supports individual freedom of choice in transportation, housing and economic activity.
11. Oppose Expanded Regulatory power. HB 1709 imposes increased regulations on payday lending, thus limiting access to credit to many citizens. Passed House 84-10, and became law. A "no" vote recognizes that the free market is the best regulator of economic decisions.
12. Oppose mandating higher costs. SB 5904 increases cost of public work projects by expanding prevailing wage laws to cover many independent contractors. Passed House 63-34 and became law. A "no" vote supports competition in public contracting.
13. Oppose economically destructive regulations. HB 1747 would require a 70% reduction in energy use in new homes built after 2031. Passed House 70-25 but died in the Senate. A "no" vote supports sustaining a sound economy and maintaining affordable housing.

Recognizes Constitutional Protections

14. Support Diversity in Athletics. SB 5967 applies Federal Title IX to cities, school districts and other government agency and anyone leasing playing fields from, prohibiting discrimination on sex in community athletics and thus denying male-only or female-only Little League and other sports teams the use of public park facilities. Passed House 67-31 and became law. A "no" vote opposes political correctness gone wild.
15. Oppose "Popular Vote" for Presidential elections. SB 5599 enters into an interstate compact to assign electoral vote based on national popular vote winner if states representing 270 electoral votes do the same, Passed House 52-42 and became law. A "no" vote retains Washington citizens' constitutional right to have their votes recorded as cast.

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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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www.WashingtonConservativeUnion.org