



WSLC Legislative Report



Washington State Labor Council report and voting record from the 2013 session of the State Legislature

'Petty' partisan politics

Senate Republicans bring D.C.-style division to state

In the 2012 elections, Washington voters (again) swept Democratic lawmakers into control of the Governor's Office, both houses of the Legislature, and eight of nine statewide offices. But one month later, two Democrats announced they were going to do what voters hadn't done for nearly a decade: hand control of a legislative chamber to the Republican Party. In exchange for leadership positions, Sens. Rodney Tom of Medina and Tim Sheldon of Potlatch established a Republican-controlled majority in the Senate.

They did so vowing bipartisanship. Said Tom, "Governing from the middle, governing from the cen-

ter, that's what the citizens in this state expect."

"This is the sort of cooperation people are hungry for," said Sen. Mark Schoesler (R-Ritzville).

Instead, what people got was a bitterly partisan 2013 session that narrowly averted a state government shutdown after two overtime sessions. The GOP-controlled Senate held the budget process hostage in an attempt to force votes on unrelated policy bills, such as undermining the workers' compensation safety net for injured workers. It killed a \$10 billion transportation package backed by labor, business and environmental interests, largely over partisan opposition

to light rail on the Columbia River Crossing between Oregon and Washington. It not only killed every aspect of the Washington State Labor Council's "Economic Recovery Agenda" to bolster middle-class families, it also launched aggressive attacks such as blocking paid sick leave ordinances, lowering the state minimum wage, and taking away health benefits from thousands of state employees, to name just a few.

"Senate Republicans took the usual level of brinkmanship over petty policy bills to new and unproductive highs this year," read an editorial in *The Olympian* after a government shutdown was narrowly averted.

As you'll read throughout this 2013 edition of the *WSLC Legislative Report*, voters in this state didn't ask for it, but they got a taste of D.C.-style Republican rule in 2013. And it was difficult to swallow.

2013 WSLC Voting Record

This year's official Legislative Voting Record — Pages 4-5.

Inslee, House defend state's injured workers

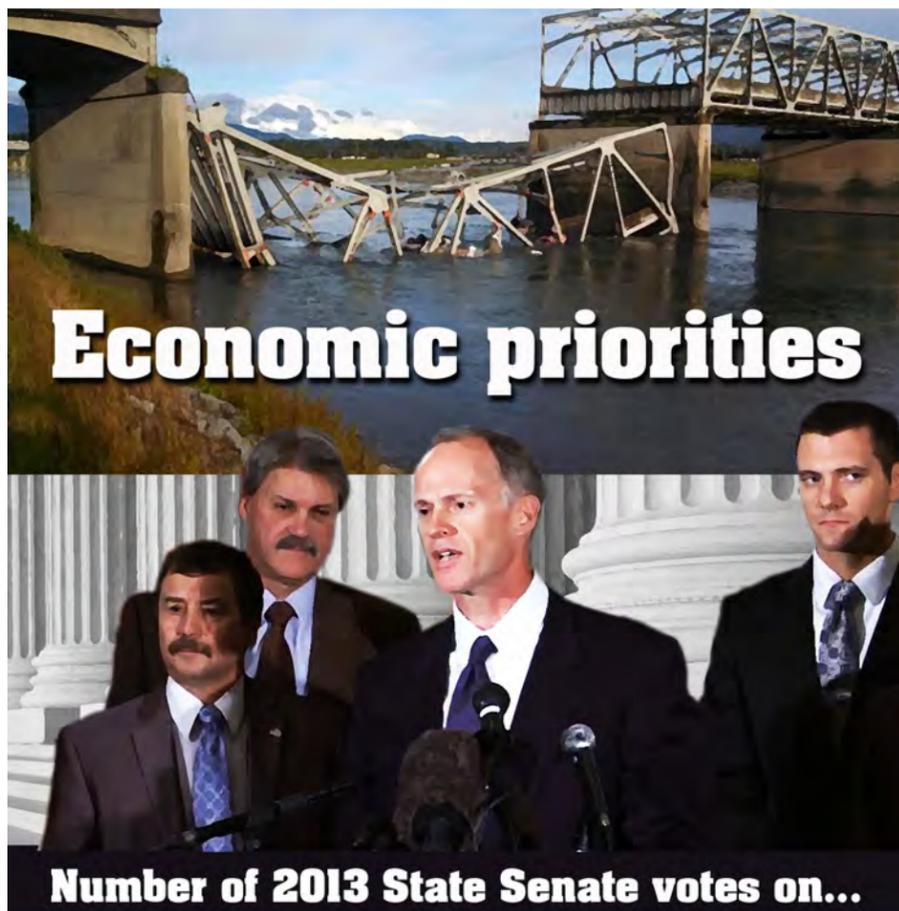
Among the very first bills passed in 2013 by the Republican-controlled Senate were efforts to undermine the workers' compensation safety net for injured workers in Washington. But House Democratic leaders and Gov. Jay Inslee stood strong in opposition to these bills, urging instead that 2011 workers' compensation legislation be fully implemented before more changes are made.

The Senate tried to force through the changes by delaying budget talks until the House acted on unrelated policy bills, including workers' compensation. But after repeated attempts during both overtime sessions to "trade" benefit cuts for various Democratic budget priorities, the Senate GOP was defeated.

Just weeks after seizing control of the Senate, Republicans passed the following bills sponsored by Sen. Janéa Holmquist Newbry (R-Moses Lake):

- SB 5128 would remove all age restrictions on lump-sum buyouts, which

Continued on Page 8



Economic priorities

Number of 2013 State Senate votes on...

Cutting workers' compensation benefits: **7**
Investing in transportation infrastructure: **0**

Senate blocks transportation package, jobs

By JEFF JOHNSON

When my children were small we used to sing, "When the wheels on the bus go round and round, round and round, round and round..."

After the 2013 legislative session few things will "go round and round" and there is nothing to sing about regarding transportation.

In a stupendous display of partisan short-sightedness, the Senate Republican majority ignored our state's transportation needs and took a pass on the most important opportunity to improve the state's economy and create 75,000-100,000 jobs over the next decade. In fact, Sens. Joe Fain (R-Auburn) and Steve Litzow (R-Mercer Island) worked to convince some of their House colleagues to vote against transportation.

So instead, Washingtonians will face more transit service cuts and

Continued on Page 2

INSIDE

Investing in Washington agenda	2
Paid sick leave, Medicaid expansion, family leave, Patient Safety Reform	3
2013 W.S.L.C. VOTING RECORD	
Plus, "Good, Bad & Ugly" bills	4-5
Education issues, state employees bills, Governor's "got game"	6
State budgets, building trades bills, DOC interest arbitration	7
Wage-and-hour laws, Wage theft/employee misclassification	8

Senate 'reforms' target middle class



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN
Jeff Johnson

When Sens. Rodney Tom (LD 48) and Tim Sheldon (LD 35), with much fanfare, broke with the Senate Democratic Caucus and formed the Senate Republican Majority Coalition Caucus (RMCC) their message was that the Senate would run in a truly bipartisan fashion and break new ground governing from the middle.

That never happened. Policy legislation attacking the injured worker safety net, family leave insurance, paid safe and sick leave, public employee pensions, part-time public employee health benefits, collective bargain-

ing for teachers, etc., quickly stacked up in the Rules Committee and on the Senate floor awaiting action. Rather than governing from the middle, the RMCC was clearly waging an attack on the middle class.

When the RMCC unveiled its "no new revenue" operating budget the charade was complete. "Bipartisanship" became a mask for a seriously divided Legislature and "reform" became code for long-sought partisan policy changes.

Continued on Page 2

Transportation

Continued from Page 1

fare increases, making it more difficult to get to and from work, medical appointments and shopping trips. We won't be spending more than a billion dollars on road and bridge maintenance and preservation. (May our bridges hang together a while longer, because public safety surely hangs in the balance.) Freight mobility and congestion will not be addressed on our key economic corridors. The Columbia River Crossing will not be built, with or without light rail, and we have forfeited \$850 million of federal transportation funding and may have to give back another \$150-175 million of federal money that has already been spent on the project. Our streets will be less safe and our environment more degraded due to storm-water runoff.

The Senate Republican majority says they will address the issue next year after first developing a set of transportation "reforms." This challenges credibility for several reasons:

- The Senate had six months this year to engage in the transportation dialogue, and chose not to.
- Reform measures were discussed and voted upon in the House.
- Transportation revenue packages don't pass during election years. Only one brave Republican, Rep. Hans Zeiger (R-Puyallup) voted for the package this year. How many Republicans will vote for a gas tax increase in an election year?

Nonetheless, labor is ready to work with all parties to put



together and pass a significant transportation package in 2014. In the meantime, it is important to recognize those folks who championed transportation this year when it counted the most.

At the top of the list are Rep. Judy Clibborn (D-Mercer Island), Gov. Jay Inslee, and House Speaker Frank Chopp. Clibborn, along with her vice-chairs Reps. Jake Fey (D-Tacoma), Marko Liias (D-Mukilteo) and Luis Moscoso (D-Mountlake Terrace), championed a comprehensive transportation package that would have made a significant down-payment on our transportation needs. Speaker Chopp promised a vote though more than 30 of his members said education must come first, and he had a good sense that the Republicans in both the House and the Senate were not going to ante up with votes. This is leadership.

Governor Inslee took a real leadership role on the issue, speak-

ing all around the state on the need for a transportation package, including the need to build the Columbia River Crossing, and pulling together weekly meetings with a labor, business, environmental and local government coalition. Inslee was unwavering in his support and personally lobbied dozens of House and Senate Republicans.

The 50 House Democrats and Rep. Zeiger deserve thanks for voting "yes" on the package, as do Sens. Ed Murray (D-Seattle), Tracey Eide (D-Federal Way) and the 22 Senate Democrats who voted procedurally to try and pull the package to the Senate floor for a vote.

And finally, a great "thank you" to Rob Johnson of Transportation Choices and Steve Mullen of the Washington Business Roundtable, for being great co-chairs of the labor-business-environmental transportation coalition supporting the package.

Senate 'reforms' target middle class

Continued from Page 1

Taking a page out of the Republican playbook in Congress, the RMCC held the operating and capital budgets hostage to a list of 33 policy bills that had no real connection to the budget.

A particular favorite of theirs was SB 5127. This bill would have expanded the age at which seriously disabled injured workers could enter into "compromise and release" settlements, a step towards privatizing our workers' compensation system. SB 5127 was offered up in exchange for various revenue bills, including closing loopholes in estate-tax and telecom taxes, and some say for the transportation revenue package. A serious game of Whack-A-Mole played out during the two overtime sessions as SB 5127 kept popping up as trading bait.



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN
Jeff Johnson

Though the Department of Labor and Industries announced in June that the original 2011 fiscal note booking savings from "compromise-and-release" agreements had been grossly exaggerated to the tune of \$250 million, the RMCC blindly went forward arguing that SB 5127 would save the workers' compensation system and the business community great sums of money. Apparently the RMCC favors the adage of never allowing facts to get in the way of a good political argument.

The great irony of the session is that many of the working family policies that came under attack, like family leave insurance and paid safe and sick leave, are common-sense middle-ground policies that historically enjoy huge public support and are part of the "common good" for most of our major international trading partners. In 2013, it shouldn't be this difficult to enact family-friendly employment policies.

The great tragedy of the session was the refusal of the RMCC to take up the Washington Voting Rights Act and access to state higher education financial aid for "dreamers." A measure of the character of our state is in the way we address fundamental civil rights. In both cases the RMCC failed our state. Communities of color ought to have a mechanism in place that allows them to challenge a voting system that, for all intents and purposes, excludes their representation of choice. "Dreamers," the children of immigrant workers, contributing to the richness of our communities and the hopes for our future, should have the same financial opportunity to attend institutions of higher education in our state.

Another great tragedy of the session was not passing the transportation revenue package. The package was open to adjustments all throughout the legislative sessions but there was no desire on the part of the RMCC to pass any package. Given there was no vote in the Senate and only one Republican vote in the House, it is clear that the business community had no impact for their efforts.

If we lose \$850 million of federal money for the Columbia River Crossing bridge, and have to pay back another \$170 million to the federal government, we will have made a bad decision of colossal proportions. The CRC is critical to the economic vitality of the Pacific Northwest and Washington State.

Finally, passing a transportation package would have been the best thing we could have done to put people back to work and to generate future revenue for our state's operating budget and needs.

In the final analysis, the Legislature increased funding to K-12 education by about \$1 billion but did so not by eliminating tax exemptions for the wealthy, as championed by the Governor and the House Democrats, but rather by sweeping the public works trust and other accounts, not paying the I-732 COLAs for teachers, and relying on projections of increased revenue and falling case loads. We had an opportunity to do so much more if the RMCC had been open to closing the income disparity gap some. They were not, and are not likely to be in the future.

The battle now shifts to educating the public in various legislative districts. This is where we can make a difference.

WA Investment Trust, bid preferences also fail

In 2012, labor and business interests were able to work together with legislative leaders of both houses to pass the "Jobs Now" infrastructure bonds. In 2013 the Washington State Labor Council sought to continue that legislative emphasis on job creation and investing in our state.

The Senate's failure to take up the transportation funding package (see story above) was a huge disappointment, but so was the failure of two additional aspects of the WSLC's "Investing in Washington" 2013 legislative agenda:

■ **Washington Investment Trust**—Sponsored by Sen. Bob Hasegawa (D-Seattle), SB 5029 would create a publicly owned Washington Investment Trust to advance construction loans to local government entities for public infrastructure projects. This would significantly and cost-effectively enhance these projects,

giving a big boost to local economies, communities, and job creation. Modeled after a successful state-run institution in North Dakota, SB 5029 would enable the state's money to be at its own disposal, instead of parked on Wall Street at a commercial bank.

■ **Bid preferences**—The State of Washington is a huge purchaser of goods and services. This presents a significant opportunity to invest in state businesses and state workers by providing a preference for in-state goods and services in our state procurement process. HB 1026, sponsored by Rep. Jim Moeller (D-Vancouver), would have made sure our tax dollars are better targeted toward creating jobs here by requiring at least 75% of labor hours on public works projects be performed by Washington residents.

Both bills failed to get committee votes in 2013, but the WSLC will continue to support such proposals.

The WSLC Legislative Report is an annual publication of the

Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO

314 First Ave. W., Seattle, WA, 98119 (206-281-8901) — 906 S. Columbia St. SW, #330, Olympia, WA, 98501 (360-943-0608)

President: Jeff Johnson
Secretary-Treasurer: Lynne Dodson

Vice Presidents:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| David Baine, <i>IFPTE</i> | Herbie Martin, <i>AFSCME</i> |
| Todd Crosby, <i>UFCW</i> | Julianne Moore, <i>AFSCME</i> |
| David Freiboth, <i>IBU</i> | Fred Monroe, <i>CBTU</i> |
| Nicole Grant, <i>WA YELL</i> | Lee Newgent, <i>Ironworkers</i> |
| Bob Guenther, <i>IBEW</i> | Tim Pfeifer, <i>AWPPW</i> |
| Bob Hasegawa, <i>APALA</i> | Mark Reavis, <i>LIUNA</i> |
| Don Houtchens, <i>USW</i> | Patty Rose, <i>IBEW</i> |
| Judy Huntington, <i>WSNA</i> | Sandra Schroeder, <i>AFT</i> |
| Robert James, <i>NALC</i> | Robby Stern, <i>ARA</i> |
| Rick Johnson, <i>IBEW</i> | Beth Thew, <i>CWA</i> |
| Vance Lelli, <i>ILWU</i> | Eric Thrift, <i>LIUNA</i> |
| Mark Lowry, <i>ATU</i> | Jim Tieken, <i>AFSCME</i> |
| Lee Malinda, <i>PAW</i> | Shannon Walker, <i>IAM</i> |
| | Tom Wroblewski, <i>IAM</i> |
| | Mari Wyatt, <i>CLUW</i> |

Administrative Staff:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Kathy Cummings | Communications Director |
| Karen Deal | Political Director |
| Katie Garrow | 2013 Legislative Intern |
| D. Nolan Groves | Publications Director |
| Caitlyn Jekel | WIA Labor Liaison |
| Viona Latschaw | Project HELP Director |
| Bill Messenger | WIA Labor Liaison |
| Teresa Mosqueda | Government Affairs Director |
| Kairie Pierce | K-12 Apprenticeship Director |
| Lori Province | Field Mobilization Director |
| Bernice Vance | Accounting Manager |

Support Staff: Janet Hays, Kamaria Hightower, Robert New, Kathy Petruzzelli, Karen White, Justine Winnie

Learn more about the WSLC at www.wslc.org. Get news at:

www.TheStand.org

Sick leave vs. anti-regulatory dogma

Right now, one million people in Washington State don't get any paid sick leave from work. These folks—who work in restaurants, retail, and even health care—must choose between putting their co-workers and the public at risk by working sick, or forgoing family income that they can't afford to lose.

A new national poll by the University of Chicago's National Opinion Research Center found that 86% of respondents favor legislation that would guarantee up to seven paid sick days a year, while just 14% opposed such legislation. But corporate government influence (and money) has bolstered anti-regulatory dogma and blocked many efforts to require employers to provide

some minimum level of paid sick leave.

Unions, public safety advocates and business owners who provide decent benefits have stopped waiting for the federal government to do the right thing. Paid Safe and Sick Days are being sought at the local level. They have been approved in the state of Connecticut, New York City, Washington, D.C., San Francisco and in Seattle. And a campaign is under way in Tacoma.

This year, the Republican-controlled State Senate set aside its usual aversion to heavy-handed government intervention in local issues and Sen. John Braun (R-Centralia) introduced SB 5728 to forbid sick leave ordinances in Seattle or any other city in Washington.

Sen. Braun's SB 5726, billed as a "compromise," undermined Seattle's ordinance by exempting businesses not headquartered in Seattle. It passed 29-20, with Democratic Sens. Tracey Eide, Jim Hargrove, Brian Hatfield and Steve Hobbs joining all of the Republican Majority Coalition in support. SB 5726 died without a vote in the House.

In contrast, HB 1313, sponsored by Rep. Laurie Jenkins (D-Tacoma), would have established a state-wide paid sick leave standard. Though it failed to get a floor vote in the House, the bill's supporters will be back in the future to put this popular issue before legislators—or perhaps voters.



Medicaid expanded, but some health care missteps

By TERESA MOSQUEDA

Washington State continued implementation of President Obama's Affordable Care Act in 2013 by committing to expand Medicaid for hundreds of thousands of people who have been priced out of the market and left with no health care options. With the federal government picking up the entire cost for the first three years, it was fiscally wise and simply the right thing to do. Nearly 350,000 people will now have the coverage they need and the state books around \$350 million in savings.

Medicaid expansion is a no-brainer. And yet, political ideologues in the Republican-controlled Senate tried to block it—or force the most vulnerable to pay unnecessary and unaffordable co-pays—right up to the very last day of the session. In the end, workers, families and seniors won with inclusion of the Medicaid expansion in the budget.

Another win was the full restoration of dental coverage for adults on Medicaid. After years of all-cuts budgets during the recession, the Legislature reversed this harmful cut.

HB 1947, sponsored by Rep. Eileen Cody (D-West Seattle), established a funding mechanism for the state's Health Benefit Exchange. Created under the ACA, this Exchange allows moderate-income uninsured people whose employers fail to provide affordable comprehensive coverage to gain access to federal subsidies and tax credits to help them purchase coverage. The Washington Healthplanfinder now has a funding mechanism that should allow it to be self-sufficient by assessing a 2% insurance premium tax on health & dental plans sold through the Exchange. But the bill took significant steps backward as it restricted the Exchange Board's ability to add quality criteria when credentialing health plans. This is one of the only tools exchanges have to improve the value of health plans



offered and address cost in the system.

Another down side to the final health care negotiations is that some public employees can expect to pay more for health care. Smokers must now pay a \$25 monthly surcharge for coverage starting in July 2014, and a \$50 surcharge will be imposed on those who include a spouse on their health plan if similar coverage is available through the spouse's job. The spouse surcharge is a self-defeating policy that could discourage healthy folks from receiving coverage in Public Employees Benefit Board, a move that could have consequences for the whole pool.

Additional notable concerns restricting access to health care this session:

- The Senate RMCC blocked a vote on the Reproductive Parity Act which would have secured access to reproductive care for women in Washington.
- Throughout the session, the Senate RMCC demanded that part-time public employees who work fewer than 30 hours a week no longer be eligible for coverage through PEBB. Thankfully those efforts were mostly defeated, but the Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee is directed to identify how the state Exchange could be used to provide health benefits to part-time K-12 employees—indicating this issue is not truly dead.
- The final budget booked \$10 million in health care savings, without specifics on how to achieve them. It remains to be seen how this cut will impact coverage and allotments.

Dueling efforts to implement, kill Family & Medical Leave both fail

In 2007, historic legislation was approved to grant all Washington workers up to 5 weeks of paid family leave to care for newborns, adopted children and illnesses of family members with a stipend of \$250 per week. But the program's funding source was not identified, and since then, recession-related concerns stymied efforts to create a funding source.

HB 1457 would have financed and implemented Washington's inactive Family and Medical Leave Insurance program by assessing a 0.2% premium on wages, to be split by the worker and employer. For someone earning \$50,000 a year, it would cost about \$4/month for the worker and employer. The premium would rise to 0.4% in 2016. Small businesses would get a tax credit to help them comply.

"As a mom, and a nurse, and a legislator, I see how devastating an illness in the family can be," said the bill's sponsor, Rep. Tami Green (D-Lakewood). "Family and medical

leave is the solution to a strong middle class... When Washington invests in working families we have a strong record of success."

"This is an opportunity for us," agreed Don Orange, owner of a Vancouver auto shop. "It's not going to break our backs—a nickel here or a nickel there—but it's absolutely the right thing to do. I look at it as an investment in the community."

Although HB 1457 passed the Labor and Workforce Development Committee it failed to get a floor vote.

Meanwhile, in the Republican-controlled Senate, HB 1457's companion bill, SB 5292 sponsored by Sen. Karen Keiser (D-Kent), didn't even get a committee vote.

However, the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee did pass SB 5159 to *repeal* the Family and Medical Leave Insurance program. That bill, sponsored by Sen. John Braun (R-Centralia), eventually died, too.

Patient Safety Reform legislation stymied in House

When hospital patients are at risk, the dedicated nursing staff somehow finds just a little bit more to give to meet their needs. But there has to be a limit to what hospital CEOs ask of nurses and patients. Nurses want to take care of patients like they would their own family members, but they can't do that when hospitals are rigging the system against them with short staffing, denied meal and rest breaks, and mandatory overtime.

A number of unions—including the Washington State Nurses Association, SEIU Healthcare 1199NW and the United Food and Commercial Workers—supported a package of Patient Safety Reform legislation in 2013 that would have addressed these critical issues. Hearings on these bills offered a great opportunity for

legislators to hear about patient safety concerns from the nurses on the front lines of the health care system. But none of these bills advanced from the House:

HB 1095, sponsored by a nurse, Rep. Tami Green (D-Lakewood), would hold hospital administrators accountable for having enough nurses per shift, so that patient care and safe staffing levels always come first.

Nurses often work 10, 12 or more hours per shift, but they have to be sharp 100% of the time. HB 1152, sponsored by another nurse, Rep. Dawn Morrell (D-Puyallup), requires that hospitals give nurses the uninterrupted rest and meal breaks they need to properly care for patients.

HB 1153, sponsored by Rep. Chris Reykdal (D-

Tumwater), closes a loophole in the mandatory overtime law that some hospital CEOs use to rig the system. They hire too few nurses, then use the on-call nurses to fill the gap. This bill would assure that on-call nurses are preserved for emergencies.

Nurses intercept 86% of medical errors before there is harm to patients. But when hospital CEOs exploit nurses' dedication by squeezing labor costs to wring more profits from the system, they are putting the safety of both patients and nurses at risk. The Washington State Labor Council and its affiliates will continue to call upon the Legislature to act on these critical issues.

What didn't get a vote

Lots of legislation affecting working families never gets a floor vote. Here are some of these bills and the legislators who sponsored them. (Democrats in bold.)



■ HB 1095—Protects patient safety by establishing safe nurse staffing levels at hospitals.

SPONSOR: Rep. **Tami Green** (D-28th)

CO-SPONSORS: **Eileen Cody, Dawn Morrell, Chris Reykdal, Sherry Appleton, Cindy Ryu, John McCoy, Steve Bergquist, Gerry Pollet**

■ HB 1313/SB 5594—Establishing statewide minimum standards for Paid Sick and Safe Leave.

SPONSORS: Rep. **Laurie Jinkins** (D-27th) and Sen. **Nick Harper** (D-38th)

CO-SPONSORS: Reps. **Jessyn Farrell, Dawn Morrell, Tami Green, Hans Dunshee, Kristine Lytton, David Sawyer, Mike Sells, Joe Fitzgibbon, Marcus Riccelli, Jim Moeller, Sherry Appleton, Chris Reykdal, Mary Helen Roberts, Cindy Ryu, Gerry Pollet, Luis Moscoso**; Sens. **Steve Conway, Karen Keiser, Sharon Nelson, Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Bob Hasegawa, Adam Kline, David Frockt, Paull Shin, Maralyn Chase**

■ HB 1440/SB 5526—Addressing wage theft & employee misclassification in the underground economy.

SPONSORS: Rep. **John McCoy** (D-38th) and Sen. **Steve Conway** (D-29th)

CO-SPONSORS: Reps. **Pat Sullivan, Cindy Ryu, Mike Sells, Tami Green, Eileen Cody, Luis Moscoso, Roger Goodman, Steve Bergquist, Marcus Riccelli, Sam Hunt, Joe Fitzgibbon, Gerry Pollet, Larry Seaquist, Mary Helen Roberts, Timm Ormsby, Monica Stonier, Eric Pettigrew, Kevin Van De Wege, Zack Hudgins, Chris Reykdal, Brian Blake, Roger Freeman, Jim Moeller, Laurie Jinkins, Sherry Appleton, Ruth Kagi**; and Sens. **Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Karen Keiser, Bob Hasegawa, Kevin Ranker, Karen Fraser, Sharon Nelson, Nick Harper, Christine Rolfes, Brian Hatfield, Steve Hobbs, Paull Shin, Adam Kline**

■ HB 1490/SB 5387—Providing interest arbitration for Department of Corrections employees.

SPONSORS: Rep. **Mike Sells** (D-38th) and Sen. **Kirk Pearson** (R-39th)

CO-SPONSORS: **Chris Reykdal, Steve Tharinger, Gerry Pollet, Maureen Walsh, Tami Green, Joe Fitzgibbon, Roger Goodman, Mike Hope, Luis Moscoso, Roger Freeman, Kristine Lytton, Timm Ormsby, Derek Stanford, Cindy Ryu, Marko Liias, Jake Fey, Steve Bergquist**; and Sens. **Steve Conway, Bob Hasegawa, Pam Roach**

■ HB 1953/SB 5773—Allowing local transportation districts the option of raising their own revenue.

SPONSORS: Rep. **Marko Liias** (D-21st) and Sen. **Nick Harper** (D-38th)

CO-SPONSORS: Reps. **Luis Moscoso, Derek Stanford, Mary Helen Roberts, Hans Dunshee, Mike Sells, John McCoy, Cindy Ryu, Jake Fey**; and Sens. **Tracey Eide, Paull Shin, Rosemary McAuliffe, Sharon Nelson, David Frockt, Adam Kline**



■ SB 5275/HB 1150—Creating a sub-minimum wage for new employees.

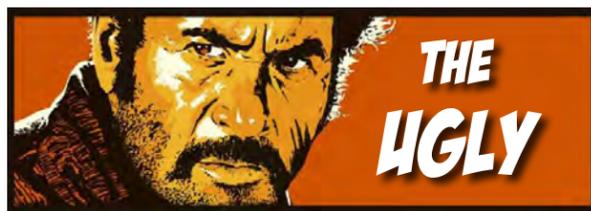
SPONSORS: Sen. **Janéa Holmquist Newbry** (R-13th) and Rep. **Cary Condotta** (R-12th)

CO-SPONSORS: Sens. **John Braun, Randi Becker, Tim Sheldon, Mark Schoesler, John Smith, Jim Honeyford**; and Reps. **Matt Manweller, Jeff Holy, Shelly Short, Liz Pike, Chad Magendanz, Kevin Parker**

■ SB 5728—Banning cities and counties from enacting Paid Sick and Safe Leave ordinances.

SPONSOR: Sen. **John Braun** (R-20th)

CO-SPONSORS: **Mike Padden, Rodney Tom, Mark Schoesler, Barbara Bailey, Don Benton**



■ SB 5935—Making Washington a so-called “right-to-work” (for less) state.

SPONSOR: Sen. **Michael Baumgartner** (R-6th)

CO-SPONSORS: None

It's time to build labor's political farm team

By KAREN DEAL

For decades, the labor movement has been frustrated by corporate influence over government at the local, state and federal levels. It has blocked a progressive pro-worker agenda and forced unions to defend against attacks on basic worker rights and social safety nets. Look no further than this year's legislative session to see plenty of examples.

But there's hope. We can recruit, train and support our own leaders to run for elected office. While organized labor will continue to support the best pro-worker candidates running for office, unions must also look long-term and identify our farm team of candidates from within our movement and among our community partners.

To accomplish this, the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO needs your help.

Our intention is to build a team of viable, high-quality, pro-worker candidates to run for office in all corners of the state. We imagine most of them may begin with a campaign for school board or a fire commission, some of them may begin with the State Legislature, and some may not be ready to run for another 10 years. But we need to find, recruit, prepare and train them now.

The WSLC plans to hold a short training this year in six to eight locations around the state for union members and community part-

ners who may seek elected office in the future. Many of these people aren't even thinking about running right now, but you know who they are. They're our community partners, your top shop stewards, your Executive Board members, your PAC members, and perhaps even your staff. The idea of this training is to get folks to think about running in the future, not to commit now, but to be part of labor's farm team.

Our intention is to have a WSLC committee assess the candidates once they get close to running for office and to provide our affiliates and the Central Labor Councils the background information they need on a candidate's viability so we can determine together when one of our own is ready to run.

Once a farm team member is assessed and endorsed, the WSLC will work with the candidate directly in connecting them to our community partners and allies, including providing strategic campaign assistance and training, and Labor Neighbor assistance where appropriate.

Please take a look at the leadership potential within your union. As you think about who your union's potential farm team members are, please call WSLC Political Director Karen Deal at 206-254-4910 with names and information about how to contact these members.

Thank you for your help in building this new, exciting program!

2013 VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

SENATE

1 ESSB 5127 (Holmquist Newbry)—**Expanding lump-sum buyouts** in workers' compensation by lowering age restrictions. “Right” vote: NO (Passed 30-19, Feb. 4)

2 ESSB 5312 (Hobbs)—**Expanding payday loans** that allow high fees and promote long-term debt. “Right” vote: NO (Passed 30-18, Feb. 20)

3 ESSB 5242 (Litzow)—Circumventing collective bargaining agreements to make it **easier for school administrators to fire teachers**. “Right” vote: NO (Passed 27-22, Mar. 6)

4 ESSB 5328 (Litzow)—Creating a punitive new **letter-grading system for public schools**. “Right” vote: NO (Passed 26-23, Mar. 6)

5 SB 5158 (Braun)—Creating “**good-faith defense**” for employers that violate minimum wage and overtime pay laws. “Right” vote: NO (Passed 25-24, Mar. 11)

6 ESB 5726 (Braun)—**Undermining local paid sick leave ordinances** by creating geographic limitations. “Right” vote: NO (Passed 29-20, Mar. 11)

7 ESSB 5684 (King)—**Exempting certain workers from prevailing wage standards** on public works projects. “Right” vote: NO (Passed 26-23, Mar. 12)

8 ESB 5903 (Braun)—**Repealing Family and Medical Leave Insurance Act**. “Right” vote: NO (Passed 27-21, Apr. 22)

9 ESSB 5905 (Hill)—**Eliminating health insurance** for part-time state employees and college faculty. “Right” vote: NO (Passed 25-23, Apr. 22)

10 2ESSB 5895 (Hill)—**Raiding public works funds** to fund education rather than closing tax loopholes. “Right” vote: NO (Passed 25-23, Apr. 23)

11 ESSB 5851 (Bailey)—**Replacing state employee pensions** with 401(k) style defined-contribution plan. “Right” vote: NO (Passed 25-22, Apr. 25)

12 ESSB 5127 (Holmquist Newbry)—Special session revote on **expanding lump-sum buyouts** (see Vote #1). “Right” vote: NO (Passed 27-18, June 9)

HOUSE

1 EHB 1470 (Ormsby)—Extends workers' compensation **vocational rehabilitation pilot program**. “Right” vote: YES (Passed 96-0, Feb. 18)

2 SHB 1536 (Seaquist)—Including **labor representative on community college boards of trustees**. “Right” vote: YES (Passed 58-40, Mar. 4)

3 SHB 1413 (Moscoso)—**Washington Voting Rights Act**. “Right” vote: YES (Passed 53-44, Mar. 7)

4 EHB 1891 (Reykdal)—**Increasing safety and health protections**. “Right” vote: YES (Passed 65-32, Mar. 8)

5 HB 1348 (Reykdal)—**Step pay increases for academic employees** at community and technical colleges. “Right” vote: YES (Passed 61-36, Mar. 8)

6 ESHB 1922 (Moscoso)—**Supporting apprenticeship programs** on state Department of Transportation work. “Right” vote: YES (Passed 57-41, Mar. 9)

7 ESHB 1753 (Jinkins)—**Granting collective bargaining rights** for language access providers/interpreters. “Right” vote: YES (Passed 55-42, Mar. 11)

8 ESHB 1817 (Hudgins)—Granting U.S.-born children of immigrants, or “**Dreamers,**” **access to college financial aid**. “Right” vote: YES (Passed 77-20, Mar. 13)

9 ESHB 2038 (Carlyle)—**Closing certain tax loopholes** to meet the state's obligation to improve education funding. “Right” vote: YES (Passed 50-47, Apr. 24)

10 ESHB 1954 (Clibborn)—**Transportation funding package**. “Right” vote: YES (Passed 51-41, June 27)

2013 Legislative Voting Record of the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO

SENATE



KEY

(Democrats are listed in **bold**.)

- "Right" vote
- "Wrong" vote
- E Excused
- A Absent

See the Vote Descriptions on Page 4.

Senator	Dis.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	2013 %	LIFE-TIME	Senator	Dis.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	2013 %	LIFE-TIME
Bailey	10	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	0	13	Honeyford	15	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	0	7
Baumgartner	6	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	0	13	Keiser	33	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	92	95
Becker	2	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	0	13	King	14	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	0	15
Benton	17	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	0	28	Kline	37	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	95
Billig	3	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	100	Kohl-Welles	36	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	93
Braun	20	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	0	0	Litzow	41	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	0	15
Brown	8	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	0	0	McAuliffe	1	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	90
Chase	32	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	99	Mullet	5	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	91	91
Cleveland	49	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	100	Murray	43	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	95
Conway	29	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	99	Nelson	34	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	96
Dammeier	25	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	0	14	O'Ban *	28	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	0	0	
Darneille	27	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	89	Padden	4	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	0	7
Eide	30	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	67	85	Parlette	12	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	0	14
Ericksen	42	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	0	15	Pearson	39	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	8	15
Fain	47	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	0	18	Ranker	40	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	93
Fraser	22	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	92	95	Rivers	18	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	0	18
Froct	46	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	88	Roach	31	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	8	39
Hargrove *	24	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	50	68	Rolfes	23	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	86
Harper	38	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	95	Schlicher	26	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	100
Hasegawa	11	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	98	Schoesler	9	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	0	11
Hatfield	19	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	37	70	<i>Sheldon</i>	35	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	0	28
Hewitt	16	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	0	11	Shin	21	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	85
Hill	45	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	0	13	Smith	7	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	0	0
Hobbs	44	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	37	63	<i>Tom</i>	48	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	0	46
Holmquist Newbry	13	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	8	14																

* As a courtesy, Sen. Jim Hargrove (D) voted on behalf of the late Sen. Mike Carrell (R) while he was absent due to illness. Those votes were not included in Sen. Hargrove's voting record. Rep. Steve O'Ban was appointed to fill Sen. Carrell's seat in June.

HOUSE

Representative	Dis.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2013 %	LIFE-TIME	Representative	Dis.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2013 %	LIFE-TIME	Representative	Dis.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2013 %	LIFE-TIME				
Alexander	20	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	20	16	Hudgins	11	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	94	Pollet	46	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	100	
Angel	26	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	30	22	Hunt	22	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	97	Reykdal	22	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	98
Appleton	23	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	99	Hunter	48	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	73	Riccelli	3	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	100
Bergquist	11	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	100	Hurst	31	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	50	70	Roberts	21	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	93
Blake	19	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	88	Jenkins	27	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	90	84	Rodne	5	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	22	18
Buy	42	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	10	12	Johnson	14	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	22	13	Ross	14	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	20	12
Carlyle	36	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	64	Kagi	32	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	88	Ryu	32	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	100
Chandler	15	E	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	11	10	Kirby	29	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	98	Santos	37	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	95
Chopp	43	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	89	Klippert	8	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	10	13	Sawyer	29	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	100
Clibborn	41	●	●	E	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	79	Kochmar	30	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	30	30	Schmick	9	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	20	13
Cody	34	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	95	Kretz	7	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	20	12	Scott	39	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	10	10
Condotta	12	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	20	13	Kristiansen	39	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	10	12	Seaquist	26	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	90	73
Crouse	4	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	13	12	Lias	21	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	97	Sells	38	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	100
Dahlquist	31	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	20	26	Lytton	40	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	100	Shea	4	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	10	13
DeBolt	20	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	22	15	MacEwan	35	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	20	20	Short	7	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	20	12
Dunshee	44	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	91	91	Magendanz	5	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	20	20	Smith	10	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	30	18
Fagen	9	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	30	15	Manweller	13	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	20	20	Springer	45	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	75
Farrell	46	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	100	Maxwell	41	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	72	Stanford	1	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	100
Fey	27	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	100	McCoy	38	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	92	Stonier	17	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	80	80
Fitzgibbon	34	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	98	Moeller	49	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	89	Sullivan	47	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	84
Freeman	30	●	●	●	●	E																																							

Everybody supports education, but some put tax breaks first

It's hard to find a politician who doesn't tout support for education. It's hard to remember a time when any politician would say they opposed a strong public education system. Yet, the Supreme Court found, in the McCleary decision earlier this year, that the state was violating the Constitution by failing to live up to its "paramount duty" to amply fund basic education. They ordered the State Legislature to make "steady, real, and measurable progress" each year to fully fund K-12 public education by 2018.



Secretary
Treasurer's Column
Lynne Dodson

After cutting more than \$2.5 billion from education since 2008, the final budget for this year actually did increase K-12 school spending. Yet, it is only about a third of what is needed to comply with the McCleary decision to get to full funding by 2018. Much of the current "increase" comes from failing to pay for teachers' cost-of-living pay adjustments. By 2015, teachers will have failed to get a COLA for six years in a row. In addition, there is little new money to reduce class sizes (only in K-1)—greatly needed since Washington State ranks 47th in the nation in class sizes.

The labor community was particularly discouraged to see that the final budget eliminated funding that Gov. Jay Inslee and the House put in their budgets for the Labor Education and Research Center and Labor Archives. Though a small amount in the total budget (less than \$1 million over 2 years), the funding would have been put to good use and allowed the LERC to hire another Labor Educator, and solidified the continuance of the Labor Archives. Unfortunately, in a fit of spiteful pique perhaps, Senate budget negotiators demanded this money be swept out of the final budget.

There was some good news beyond K-12 increases. Higher education also

received a small increase, and tuition rates will not go up (for some universities, for the first time in 27 years), stopping the spiraling costs of tuition for in-state students. While faculty in our community and technical colleges will have their cost-of-living adjustments frozen for another two years, some of the money for the colleges can be bargained to pay for promotional increases.

Much of the education news this session was a fight to stop bad policy from being enacted, and the Governor and House of Representatives can be thanked for standing firm against that legislation. There were many truly bad bills recommended by the Senate. The most egregious would have thrown part-time state employees off of their health care insurance—this would have hit part-time faculty (still the majority of faculty in our community colleges) particularly hard. Other policy bills that attacked collective bargaining rights and due process died a rightful death.

Our United Labor Lobby pushed for good education policies that also failed to make it through the session. We worked to enact legislation to put a labor representative on community college boards, and to allow two-year college teachers the right to bargain salaries—both bills failed in the Senate.

Given the rhetoric we hear from lawmakers about the importance of education, given how critically important our public education system is to families and the economic vitality of Washington, this could have been a year to move money away from corporate tax breaks and into building our education system. The Governor and the House worked to do so. The Senate spent a lot of time obfuscating with bad bills, pushing illogical budget numbers, and thwarting good policy bills. It seems this is the new way backward for the "majority caucus."



Gov. Inslee speaks at the WSLC Legislative Conference on March 7.

Gov. Inslee's got game

In the first legislative session of his term, Gov. Jay Inslee made it clear that he intends to get involved and advocate for the policies that voters sent him to Olympia to pursue. It was a noticeable—and refreshing—change from his Democratic gubernatorial predecessors who often sat on the sidelines and played the role of mediators brokering deals.

Announcing the second overtime session, a frustrated Inslee called out the Republican-controlled Senate for refusing to compromise while demanding an "ideological wish list" of policy bills unrelated to the budget. His speech surprised some media pundits accustomed to governors playing referee, but it was an inspirational expression of resolve among beleaguered progressives who'd watched past compromises sacrifice core principles.

"The Senate majority is trying to leverage our obligation to Washington's schoolchildren in order to pass its ideological agenda," Inslee said. "On policy, the Senate went to the edges, not to the middle. They said they wouldn't fund education unless an unrelated set of policy bills was passed first. This should be a debate about education funding, not workers' compensation, not tax breaks for millionaires, not anti-teacher bills, and certainly not anything like payday lending."

Soon after, the Senate dropped its demands and the budget was settled. Inslee's speech may not have been a deciding factor in that deal finally happening, but it certainly gave his Democratic colleagues and their party base a boost when they needed one.

"He is not on the field wearing a black-and-white striped shirt with a whistle," said House budget negotiator Rep. Reuven Carlyle (D-Seattle). "He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in."

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

He has that right. And that is where the people of this state expect him to be, engaged in the game and all-in.

Senate targets part-time workers' health benefits

Near the end of the regular session, legislative negotiators who refused to close tax loopholes were looking to cut expenses anywhere they could. One idea they came up with—a slap in the face for public employees—was to eliminate health coverage for part-time state workers and force them into the Washington Health Benefits Exchange being developed under the federal Affordable Care Act. This would have particularly harmed AFT Washington-represented faculty at community and technical colleges, some 70% of whom are part-timers.

SB 5905, sponsored by Sens. Andy Hill (R-Redmond) and Jim Hargrove (D-Hoquiam), was strongly opposed by organized labor from the moment it was introduced in April, but it passed the Republican-controlled Senate on a 25-23 vote.

The Washington Federation of State Employees reported that Sens. Pam Roach (R-Auburn) and Brian Hatfield (D-Raymond) led the principled opposition to SB 5905, but it squeaked by after conservative Sen. Steve Hobbs (D-Lake Stevens) joined sponsor Hargrove in voting "yes" alongside the GOP+2 caucus.

The bill went nowhere in the House, and Gov. Jay Inslee and Democratic budget ne-

gotiators succeeded in keeping this horrible idea out of the final operating budget.

Sen. Tom's 'gratuitous attack'

The Senate effort to cut part-timers' health benefits wasn't the only audacious attack on state employees in 2013. Sen. Rodney Tom of Medina introduced SB 5856 to end the current pension system for state employees under age 45 and force them into a costly 401(k)-type of plan. No one testified in favor of it at the bill's Ways and Means hearing and no one—not even the most conservative of Senate Republicans—co-sponsored Tom's bill.

Washington Federation of State Employees Executive Director Greg Devereux called it "a gratuitous attack on the workforce whose morale is already low."

Thankfully, SB 5856 quickly died without a vote.

House 'steps up' for faculty

HB 1348, also known as the "Step Up for Faculty" bill sponsored by Rep. Chris Reykdal (D-Tumwater) and co-sponsored by 35 state representatives, would create a framework to fund step increases for community and technical college faculty. It would allow local

college boards to pay for negotiated step increases in faculty pay beyond what its provided by the Legislature. There are no other groups of employees that bargain step increases, but then don't get them unless they are specifically funded by the Legislature. This is about fairness, retaining quality faculty members, and allowing local control of community colleges.

HB 1348 passed the House, 61-36, but was killed in the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee by its chair, Sen. Janéa Holmquist Newbry (R-Moses Lake).

A voice for colleges' front lines

AFT Washington also supported legislation in 2013 to bring some front-line expertise to community and technical college boards of trustees. HB 1536, sponsored by Rep. Larry Seaquist (D-Gig Harbor), would ensure that these boards have at least one member from labor and one member from business. This bill would codify a practice that already exists at many boards: making sure the perspectives of the college workforce is included in the decisions that affect it.

HB 1536 passed the House, 58-40, but was killed in the Senate Higher Education Committee by its chair, Sen. Barbara Bailey (R-Oak Harbor).

Shutdown averted, contracts funded

But Senate refusal to close tax loopholes leads to job-killing sweep of public works funds

By TERESA MOSQUEDA

After four years of national recession and more than \$10.5 billion in budget cuts, the 2013-15 state operating budget ends the drastic slashing of education, human services and the health care safety net. The Republican-dominated Majority Coalition Caucus' staunch opposition to very reasonable revenue options meant that the final budget scraped together just enough funding to sustain vital programs and services. But it took two overtime sessions and the threat of a state government shutdown before a budget agreement was reached just hours before the July 1 deadline.

The Senate majority's refusal to raise desperately needed revenue by closing tax loopholes for wealthy corporations resulted in a cash sweep of the Public Works Trust Fund over the next two biennia. The temporary sweep of some \$300 million this biennium—and billions over the next few biennia—into the General Fund will mean fewer community projects get

financed and fewer people go to work on these family-wage jobs. The Public Works Trust Fund usually helps fund improvements in local water, sewer and other local projects that create jobs and economic vitality.

In contrast, the capital budget will help fund some essential projects, creating an estimated 30,000 jobs throughout the state. The project list includes everything from building elementary schools to improving our state parks. But many more projects and general investments in infrastructure are needed in the coming years. The capital budget also included an historic investment in farmworker housing projects, which will infuse \$27 million into local economies and provide critical housing for workers throughout the state.

In the end, the temporary sweep from public works, the infusion of federal money for Medicaid expansion, the closure of a loophole in the state's estate tax law, the passage of an industry-agreed-upon telecommunication tax, and a fortunate bump in revenue due to the general economic upswing all combined to allow the Legislature to agree on an operating budget.

The good news is that union contracts were funded. Public employees will see a 1% salary increase effective July 1, 2014, contingent on increased economic activity, the 3% salary cut is discontinued, and an ad-

ditional Step M is provided for classified employees.

The bad news is that voter-mandated cost-of-living increases for teachers were suspended for the fifth and sixth years in a row, jeopardizing our ability to attract and retain quality educators. And while an initial down payment was placed toward fulfilling the state's obligation to fully fund education, the budget does not put us on a long-term path to fully funding basic education. It is expected to cost \$4.5 billion by 2018 to meet our constitutional obligation to fund public schools. While a \$1 billion investment was made towards that requirement over the next two years, no additional revenue was raised to ensure we can meet our full obligations. That means the call for revenue and sufficient investments in education remains a priority for 2014.

The final revenue agreement stood in sharp contrast to proposals put forward by both the House and by Gov. Jay Inslee earlier in session, which put more than \$1.3 billion dollars in revenue options on the table. The Washington State Labor Council applauds efforts to close tax loopholes by the House, and thanks the governor for his call for new revenue. The WSLC will continue the fight in 2014 to close additional tax breaks that aren't creating Washington jobs so that the sweep of vital public works funding can cease.



Hundreds of Teamster correctional employees, their families and allies rallied on the steps of the State Capitol on Jan. 10 to call for interest arbitration.

Corrections employees get interest arbitration (for now)

This year, Department of Corrections (DOC) employees came to Olympia en masse to call for safer working conditions and interest arbitration legislation that would grant 6,000 correctional workers the same rights as their counterparts at other public safety agencies.

Bipartisan legislation, HB 1490/SB 5387 sponsored by Rep. Mike Sells (D-Everett) and Sen. Kirk Pearson (R-Monroe), would grant DOC employees the same binding interest arbitration rights that cover police officers, fire fighters and other public safety workers who've given up their right to strike.

"Correctional employees perform

one of the most stressful, dangerous jobs in the United States," said Teamsters 117 Secretary-Treasurer Tracey A. Thompson. "They deserve a safer working environment and the same rights as other public safety professionals."

Despite strong support from House leadership and hundreds of phone calls and emails sent in support, neither bill passed in 2013. However, Local 117 temporarily secured interest arbitration for the 2013-15 collective bargaining agreement as part of a settlement of an unfair labor practice charge against the state. Let's make it permanent by passing this legislation in 2014.

Work safety laws need an update

Improving workplace health and safety will protect Washington workers from serious harm and also lower workers' compensation costs for Washington businesses. Preventing injuries and illnesses before they happen just makes sense, yet many of the laws governing safety at work have not been updated since the 1970s. Many say the penalties for violating work safety laws are so low they are not a deterrent, they are simply considered a cost of doing business.

HB 1891, sponsored by Rep. Chris Reykdal (D-Tumwater), would fix that. It would instruct the Department of Labor and Industries to review and recommend updates to civil penalties for violating health and safety laws, clarify the rights of victims of serious work accidents, and promote safety committees, among other things.

It passed the House 65-32 but never received a committee vote in the Republican-controlled Senate.

An assault on prevailing wage laws

Do you recall any state legislators running for election last fall by promising to lower your wages? We don't. And yet, the 2013 session brought a surprising number of proposals to do just that.

In addition to bills to create a sub-minimum wage for new hires and to help businesses get away with illegally denying overtime and minimum wages (see story on Page 8), the Republican-controlled Senate also sought to undermine prevailing wage standards so contractors can pay construction workers less money.

Several Senate bills were introduced to exempt various types of public-works projects from prevailing wages:

- SB 5619, sponsored by Sen. Janéa Holmquist Newbry (R-Moses Lake), would exempt fire repair projects.

- SB 5508, sponsored by Sen. Brian Hatfield (D-Raymond), would exempt rural school projects.

- SB 5727, sponsored by Sen. John Braun (R-Centralia), would exempt projects in "distressed" counties. (Just what a distressed county needs: lower wages and more out-of-state contractors and workers!)

Thankfully, none of those bills survived committee cutoffs.

The one that did pass the Senate was SB 5107, sponsored by Sen. Mike Padden (R-Spokane Valley), which

would more broadly apply residential prevailing wages—which are lower—to mixed-use buildings, including work on utilities, streets and other structures associated with the project. Under current law, all work on such projects must pay higher commercial wages.

The bill's supporters tried to portray SB 5107 as an attempt to clarify conflicting federal and state standards, not an attempt to lower wages. They also said it would save money so more low-income housing can be built. But every dollar it "saves" is a dollar taken out of a construction worker's pocket. Cutting wages to build more low-income housing is not a vision that reflects our values in Washington state.

SB 5107 passed the Senate 26-23, with all Republicans, Republican Sens. Rodney Tom and Tim Sheldon, and freshman Sen. Mark Mullet (D-Issaquah) voting "yes." It died without a vote in the House.

Apprenticeship blocked

Apprenticeship utilization standards on public-works projects have successfully promoted paid training for family-wage job opportunities, without costing the state a penny. Requiring that 15% of work hours on public projects be done by apprentices has significantly

increased the number of slots available.

HB 1922, sponsored by Rep. Luis Moscoso (D-Mountlake Terrace), would expand apprenticeship opportunities for highway construction workers. Plus it would establish a Department of Transportation recruiting program for women, veterans and people of color based on a successful program in Oregon and several other states.

HB 1922 passed the House on a mostly party-line 57-41 vote, because most Republicans oppose efforts to promote union apprenticeship programs even though they are jointly administered by labor and industry representatives. It didn't even get a hearing in the Republican-controlled Senate.

HB 1023 by Rep. Jim Moeller (D-Vancouver) and SB 5393 by Sen. Karen Keiser (D-Kent) would extend apprenticeship utilization standards to publicly subsidized projects that cost \$5 million or more. Given the increase in public-private partnerships and the tax subsidies available to these builders, it makes a lot of sense to have them share in this commitment to training the next generation of construction trades workers.

HB 1023 passed the House Labor and Workforce Development Committee but never received a floor vote.

Senate GOP attacks state wage laws

By KATIE GARROW

A growing, insidious attack on basic wage-and-hour laws emerged from the Republican-controlled Senate in 2013, demonstrated in particular by two bills:

■ **SB 5275**, sponsored by Sen. Janéa Holmquist Newbry (R-Moses Lake), would allow businesses to pay a sub-minimum wage for a “training period.” The bill allows an employer to pay a new worker (whether they are in training or not) 25% less than the minimum wage for the first 680 hours of work. For a

part-time worker at 20 hours per week, that period could last up to 8.5 months.

Touted as a tool to increase youth employment, there is no evidence that cutting the minimum wage lowers teen joblessness, which is up nationally as teens compete with adults for scarce jobs. Though it passed the Commerce and Labor Committee on a party-line 4-3 vote, SB 5275 never made it to the floor.

■ **SB 5158**, sponsored by freshman Sen. John Braun (R-Centralia), would allow a “good-faith defense” for businesses that violate state minimum wage

and overtime pay laws, creating a new loophole to avoid paying employees for the work they’ve performed.

Under the law, businesses could underpay employees if they got erroneous departmental “advice” about their legal obligations and avoid any penalty for having incorrectly paid workers. It is not the employees’ fault that their company violated the law, yet they are the ones who don’t get paid. SB 5158 incentivizes employers to seek interpretations of the law that suits them. It passed the Senate, 25-24, but died in the House.

On the surface, these bills may seem mild when compared to blatant attacks like right-to-work (for less) legislation introduced this year by Sen. Michael Baumgartner (R-Spokane). But make no mistake; these attacks are calculated and are part of a national strategy by Republicans to weaken employment laws. The national war on workers has been packaged and sold as “minor tweaks” and reforms to state laws by the likes of the corporate-funded right-wing American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC).

Not in this Washington!

Crackdown urged on wage theft, misclassification

By KATIE GARROW

This session, the Stop Wage Theft Coalition of labor, community, small business and faith-based groups came together to support a bill that would fight wage theft and employee misclassification across industries. HB 1440, sponsored by Rep. John McCoy (D-Tulalip) and 26 co-sponsors, aimed to address our state’s underground economy by cracking down on businesses that are cheating workers—and state and local governments—out of the money they are owed.

HB 1440 clarified the definition of “employee,” while preserving the independence of legitimate “independent contractors,” and ensured that wages and

taxes can be recovered when unscrupulous businesses cheat the system and their workers. It would expand worker protection from retaliation, create a wage lien to recover lost wages, and streamline the way that the Department of Labor



and Industries and the Employment Security Department share information between units. It also increases penalties for employers who don’t abide by the law, creating a true disincentive to cheat.

Stop Wage Theft Coalition partners worked hard to organize and encourage their constituencies to tell their stories of wage theft to the Legislature. And those stories were truly tragic: janitors forced to work 364 days a year but misclassified as independent contractors, day laborers denied wages and faced with threats of deportation and retaliation if they dared to file a wage theft claim, and injured or laid-off workers who had no idea they were classified as “independent contractors” and therefore not eligible for workers’ compensation or unemployment benefits.

Legislators also heard from frustrated small business owners who reported being underbid by unscrupulous competitors that misclassified their workers to avoid paying taxes and adhering to wage-and-hour laws. Honest employers who play by the rules pleaded with lawmakers to help them compete on a level playing field by cracking down on wage theft and employee misclassification.

HB 1440 made it through the House’s Labor and Workforce Development and Finance committees, but died without a floor vote. It faced opposition from companies like Avon and Amway based on the misconception that the bill prevented people from working as legitimate independent contractors. Although the bill did not pass, the Stop Wage Theft Coalition will continue to pursue new strategies, educate legislators on the issue, and build coalitions with small businesses so this important legislation can be approved in 2014.

4 Reasons Why Our Current Workers’ Comp System WORKS

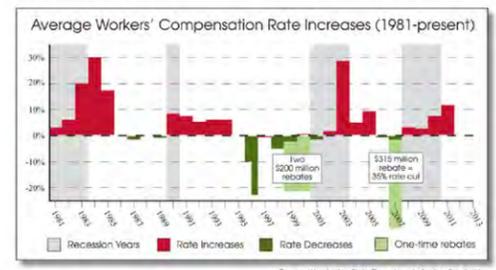
1) Premium costs are shared



3) Employer costs are competitive



2) Recessions (not benefits) raise rates



4) 2011 changes are saving \$1.5 billion

Legislative changes approved in 2011 are already projected to save nearly \$1.5 billion through fiscal year 2013, \$200 million more than initially projected by the state Department of Labor & Industries. **And these changes have not even been fully implemented yet.**

The Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO urges legislators to **REJECT** all efforts to undermine the workers' compensation safety net for injured workers. Please **OPPOSE** Senate Bills 5112, 5127 and 5128. No more "reforms" until we see how the changes currently being implemented are working!

The Washington State Labor Council distributed leaflets like this one to legislators to remind them about what's right with our state's popular public workers' compensation system. (Download it at The Stand!)

Workers' comp

Continued from Page 1

are currently limited to injured workers 55 and older. These “voluntary” buyouts are made during times of financial desperation—when families have lost their income and are likely to be facing extreme hardship. That can lead people into taking buyouts that aren’t in their best interests, especially younger workers who can’t anticipate their future expenses. The only way buyouts save the system money is if injured workers accept less than they would otherwise get. The Senate passed SB 5128, 25-24, despite opposition from all Democrats in the minority.

■ SB 5127 would lower the age limit on lump-sum buyouts from 55 to 40 years old. It also blocks the state, when authorizing buyouts, from considering the “best interests” of injured workers if they have legal representation. This Senate “compromise” (with itself) passed 30-19 with Democratic Sens. Tracey Eide, Jim Hargrove, Brian Hatfield, Steve Hobbs and Mark Mullet joining the Republican majority coalition in support on the first vote—though fewer Democrats supported it on subsequent votes.

■ SB 5112 allows Retrospective Rating groups to claim larger rebates by rushing injured workers through medical exams and vocational assessments. It passed 25-24.

House Speaker Frank Chopp and other Democratic leaders expressed frustration that this contentious issue was the Senate’s priority, given the 2013 Legislature’s stated focus on education funding. Legislation approved in 2011 is already saving the workers’ comp system hundreds of millions of dollars, and it hasn’t been fully implemented yet.

After the Senate passed its bills, Gov. Jay Inslee

quickly declared that they had “gone backwards” on the issue of workers’ compensation, saying their bills would “reduce protections for workers and their families. I think they are unnecessary.”

But Senate Republicans continued to push the issue, particularly lowering the eligibility age for lump-sum buyouts. SB 5127 was on the list of policy bills that they insisted be on the table as lawmakers entered the first special session.

Ultimately, any sense of urgency for further cutting benefits was diminished when the Department of Labor and Industries reported that the system’s financial condition is improving as the economy recovers. The state-run workers’ comp system now has an operating surplus, and hundreds of millions of dollars more than previously anticipated are available to bolster reserve funds depleted during the recession.

The final nail in the coffin for Senate efforts to expand lump-sum buyouts in 2013 came near the end of the second overtime session. L&I announced that the buyouts weren’t saving the system as much as had been advertised when it passed in 2011, with “savings” about \$242 million short of expectations.

“Organized labor argued all along that projected savings were wildly off base,” said WSLC President Jeff Johnson. “Those inaccurate projections from 2011 were the biggest reason legislators legalized the lump-sum buyouts in the first place. Now some legislators want to double-down on this failing experiment by expanding the buyouts and they have a new set of ‘projected savings’ that are also grossly inflated.”

He urged legislators to “stop chasing phantom savings down this rabbit hole. It’s harming injured workers and their families.”

But look for conservative Senators who put cost-cutting ahead of injured workers’ best interests to continue pressing for more buyouts in 2014.