

WSLC ranks state lawmakers

The old method may be imperfect, but this year's ratings made it clear it was a tough session for labor. Not one of the Washington Senate's 49 members got a 100 percent rating, and just five of the 98 House members got 100 percent. Ratings were based on lawmakers' votes on eight bills. WSLC had made it clear that the bills were of importance to labor. The report in all its detail is available at www.wslc.org/legis/index.htm.

The top-ranked House members, with 100 percent ratings, were Democrats Bob Hasegawa, Mark Miloschia, Mike Sells, Geoff Simpson, and Brendan Williams. Hasegawa is a former leader of Seattle-based Teamsters Local 174. Sells is secretary-treasurer of the Snohomish County Labor Council in Bremerton.

And top ratings in the Senate went to Democrats Craig Pridemore of Vancouver and Kevin Ranker of San Juan Island. Both had 88 percent ratings.

Bottom-ranked in the Senate — at 13 percent — were Seattle-area Democrat Al O'Brien and three Republicans.

Overall, Democrats had higher scores than Republicans, but in the Senate, the two top-rated Republicans (Don Benton and Pam Roach) had higher scores than the five lowest-rated Democrats. Tom Campbell of Pierce County was far and away the highest

ranked House Republican, at 75 percent.

Several ranking choices turned the usual partisan comparison upside down. Most Democrats voted to approve the final state budget, while Republicans voted against it. WSLC opposed it, arguing it went too far cutting state services. Including the budget vote in the rankings meant all Republicans had at least 13 percent, while few Democrats could make 100 percent.

Also, this year's ratings had a sort of giveaway — a bill expanding unemployment insurance that passed almost unanimously in both chambers. WSLC supported the important bill, which added \$45 a week to unemployment checks, but including the bill in the ratings had the effect of bumping everyone's ratings up slightly, and lessening the difference between ranked lawmakers.

SW Washington lawmakers ratings were as follows:

DISTRICT 17 (EAST VANCOUVER)

Sen. Don Benton (R) — 50%
Rep. Tim Probst (D) — 63%
Rep. Deb Wallace (D) — 38%

DISTRICT 18 (CAMAS, WASHOUGAL,

BATTLEGROUND, RIDGEFIELD,
LA CENTER, KALAMA)

Sen. Joseph Zarelli (R) — 25%
Rep. Jaime Herrera (R) — 29%
Rep. Ed Orcutt (R) — 25%

DISTRICT 19 (LONGVIEW, KELSO)

Sen. Brian Hatfield (D) — 50%
Rep. Dean Takko (D) — 63%
Rep. Brian Blake (D) — 75%

DISTRICT 49 (WEST VANCOUVER)

Sen. Craig Pridemore (D) — 88%
Rep. Jim Jacks (D) — 88%
Rep. Jim Moeller (D) — 75%

Labor council in Vancouver makes picks for August primary election

VANCOUVER — Ballots have been sent to residents eligible to vote in this month's Washington primary election. The deadline to return ballots is Aug. 18. If more than one candidate is running for a post, only the top two vote-getters will advance to the general election in November.

In Southwest Washington, the Clark, Skamania, Klickitat Central Labor Council has issued endorsements in several races.

At the City of Vancouver, the labor council supports Jack Burkman for an open seat on the City Council, Position 1. Burkman is running against three others in a seat being vacated by incumbent Pat Jollota. The labor council also endorsed Anne McEnery-Ogle for Position 3. She is challenging incumbent Jeanne Harris, who has gar-

nered endorsements from several union locals. The Vancouver City Council is a non-partisan race.

For Battle Ground City Council, the labor group likes incumbent Mayor Michael Ciraulo for Position 1; Michael Dalesandro in Position 4; Adrian Cortes for Position 5, and incumbent Bill Ganley for Position 6.

The labor council endorsed Mark Rohr for a seat on the non-partisan Washougal City Council. It also supports the re-election of Port of Vancouver Commissioner Nancy Baker.

Nationally, the labor council endorsed HR 676, the single-payer health care reform bill sponsored by Rep. John Conyers, (D-Michigan). HR 676 would institute a single payer health care system by expanding an improved Medicare system to all U.S. citizens.

...WSLC may alter political action strategy

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it's also been customary in the past for unions to make nominal contributions to friendly politicians who are not facing serious election challenges. The problem is those politicians often pass on the contributions to party leaders, who may use it to help elect Democrats who are not close to labor.

WSLC also wants to develop a new method for rating lawmakers. Cummings said it has become common practice for Democratic leaders to "protect" their members from individual accountability to labor — either by preventing bills from getting a vote or by blocking roll-call votes in which there's a record of how lawmakers voted. Those practices make it hard for labor to rate lawmakers' votes on priority bills. Also, the traditional rating system gives legislators credit for voting the right way on the final passage of the bill, even if they actively worked against the legislation during the committee process or in caucus meetings. For example, some legislators who co-sponsored the Worker Privacy Act reportedly worked behind closed doors to quash it and avoid a vote, after being pressured by Boeing and other business interests.

All this is on the agenda at the convention, which started Aug. 6, after this issue went to press.



Jack Burkman for Vancouver City Council - Pos. 1

- ✓ Informing and including residents
- ✓ Creating more and better jobs
- ✓ Wisely managing our community's funds
- ✓ Keeping our city safe and secure
- ✓ Listening and Leading

Sensible, Experienced & Approachable

Making sure YOUR voice is heard!

We are the Friends to Bring Jack Back. He needs your vote to return to Vancouver City Council. Please join us in supporting him.

Clark Central Labor Council, Electrical Workers PAC 48, Dan & Val Ogden, IAFF Local 452, ATU Local 757, Tom Burkholder, Harry Glaus, Gay Lincoln, AFSCME Local 307VC, Harold Abbe, Ed Barnes, Dianne Hibbard, and hundreds of others.

Go to www.BurkmanForCouncil.com to learn more!

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Washington PAC #48 Washington Primary Endorsements

City of Battle Ground

Michael J. Ciraulo, Pos. 1
Michael Dalesandro, Pos. 4
Adrian Cortes, Pos 5
Bill Ganley, Pos. 6

City of Vancouver

Royce E. Pollard, Mayor
Jack Burkman, Pos. 1
David Michael Heywood, Pos. 2
Jeanne Harris, Pos. 3

City of La Center

Al Luiz, Pos. 2
Barbara M. Vinning, Pos. 3

City of Washougal

Lou Peterson, Pos. 6

City of Ridgefield

Ron Onslow, Pos. 1

Battle Ground School District

John G. Idsinga, Dist. 3

Vancouver School District

Nelson Holmberg, Pos. 3

IBEW #48 encourages everyone to
VOTE!

Paid for by Washington PAC #48, P.O. Box 2883, Battle Ground, WA 98604