



# 2018 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The WSLC's report and voting record from the 2018 session of the Washington State Legislature

# Proof that every vote counts

Every vote counts. Political organizers say it all the time, but the 2018 session of the Washington State Legislature proved the difference a single vote can make.

In this case, it was last fall's special election of Sen. Manka Dhingra (D-Redmond), which shifted control of the Senate from Republicans to Democrats. That one vote broke loose a legislative logjam in place for the past five years. Many bills supported by the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO and its affiliated unions had been blocked from votes by Senate Republican leaders. But in 2018, they finally got fair votes and many passed with strong bipartisan majorities.

From voting rights to equal pay, from bargain-

ing rights to prevailing wages, many pro-worker bills were approved and signed into law by Gov. Jay Inslee. A healthy capital construction budget, long delayed by partisan brinkmanship, passed and will create jobs and invest in infrastructure throughout the state. But lawmakers failed to approve important bills on issues like hospital workers' breaks and contracting transparency.

We've done our best to squeeze it all into this 2018 WSLC Legislative Report, including an unprecedented number of votes in Voting Record (Pages 4-5).

So read on, see the difference a vote makes, and get ready to support Manka Dhingra (again) and dozens of other pro-worker legislators in this fall's election.

## 2018: 'A down payment on hope'

Five years of Republican stranglehold on common-sense measures to improve the lives and working conditions of working people has come to an end. And it's about time.

Much longer and the people of our state would have become as cynical as the Republican Party itself. Instead the 2018 legislative session was a down payment on hope. What a difference an election makes.

Although House and Senate Democratic majorities remain slim, the breadth of common-sense legislation signed into law was inspiring:

- No longer will people of color be denied fair political representation because of polarized voting schemes designed to favor entrenched power.
- Workers will no longer be silenced when talking about pay discrimination at work, and they will have real options to ensure gender pay equity on the job.
- Dreamers will remain eligible for state aid for higher education expenses.
- A significant capital budget will provide tens of thousands of jobs to Washington residents while energy retrofitting schools, building affordable housing, cleaning storm water pollution, and so much more.
- Community and technical college faculty will be able to bargain over local college funds to improve the quality of education for our adult students.
- The cycle of debt to prison will be significantly reduced by limiting legal financial obligations.
- The formerly incarcerated will have a fair chance of employment by eliminating the box for "felony" on job application forms.
- Hanford cleanup workers who contract beryllium poisoning, lung cancer or occupational dementia will be presumed to have valid workers' compensation claims.
- Prevailing wages will be set by local collective



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN  
**Jeff Johnson**



## More voters get 'Access to Democracy'

Over 1 million Washingtonians were eligible to register to vote in 2016 but didn't. And of those registered, nearly 1 in 5 didn't vote. The November 2017 General Election set a record low for voter turnout—only 37 percent of voters returned their ballots.

So in 2018, Democratic legislative leaders prioritized removing barriers to voting, both in terms of registration and supporting better election systems. And they delivered. On March 19, Gov. Jay Inslee signed a package of five bills—dubbed the Access to Democracy package—to improve voter access and strengthen democracy in Washington state.

One of them was the Washington Voting Rights Act, SB 6002, sponsored by Sen. Rebecca Saldaña (D-Seattle). For the sixth time in as many years, the House passed this bill (see Vote #8) creating a path for local governments to change discriminatory voting systems while avoiding costly lawsuits. But this year, the Senate finally got to vote on it, and it passed 29-20 (Vote #16). The WVRA will promote more equal representation by allowing district-based elections or other alternative voting systems to best suit individual communities.

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## Safety net strengthened for Hanford workers

By NICKOLAS BUMPAOUS

In 1943, the federal government brought 50,000 people to the Hanford Nuclear Reservation to manufacture plutonium for the world's first atomic bombs. In 1990, Hanford's mission shifted from nuclear materials production to environmental clean-up.

Today, Hanford remains the most contaminated worksite in the western

world. And yet, the people who work there face nearly insurmountable barriers accessing the workers' compensation safety net when they get sick due to toxic exposure.

That will end with this year's passage of HB 1723.

Despite the recognized uniqueness of the risks, Hanford workers' comp claims are denied at five times the rate of other

self-insured employers. The U.S. Department of Energy and its contractors, have used the lack of accurate worksite data to question and deny the validity of sick workers' claims. This highlighted the need for a new standard presuming that certain occupational illnesses are work-related, and for the last two years Plumbers and Steamfitters (UA) Local

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# Victory on equal pay

Washington was one of the first states in the nation to address the wage gap by passing the Equal Pay Act in 1943. In 2018, the state made history again by adding additional provisions aimed at closing the gap between what women and men are paid with the passage of HB 1506, the Equal Pay Opportunity Act sponsored by Rep. Tana Senn (D-Mercer Island). It was signed into law by Gov. Jay Inslee on March 21 (pictured).

“With this bill, Washington is not only updating our 75-year-old equal pay law, but once again leading the country with equal pay policy,” Senn said. “Protecting women from bias in career advancement opportunities is a new step to help battle equal pay disparities.”

Today, a white woman working full time in our state makes 76.5 cents to the dollar that white men earn. Women of color fare worse: African American, 61.1 cents; Native American, 59.8; and Latinas, 46.3.

HB 1506 (see House Vote #21 and Senate Vote #19) allows employees to discuss earnings with co-workers and ask for equal pay, without fear of backlash or retaliation. It offers remedies for employees who are



paid less for similar work on the basis of gender. It also ensures employees receive access to equivalent career advancement opportunities, regardless of gender. This will help put women and men on equal footing for promotions and upward mobility.

During the legislative process, an effort was made to add preemption language that would prohibit local governments from adopting and enforcing their own anti-discrimination measures. Fortunately, the final bill signed by the governor does not include that language.

## New protections against sexual harassment

The #MeToo movement has prompted an overdue reckoning against managers and co-workers who sexually harass and employers who conceal such actions. Three bills, all sponsored by Sen. Karen Keiser (D-

Kent) passed in 2018 to address this issue:

- SB 5996 prohibits employers from requiring employees, as a condition of employment, to sign a non-disclosure agreement that prevents disclosure of sexual harassment or sexual assault in the workplace.

- Similarly, SB 6313 voids any employment agreement that requires employees to waive their right to file a discrimination or harassment complaint with the state or requires such claims to be resolved using a confidential dispute resolution process.

- SB 6417 directs the state Human Rights Commission to develop model policies and best practices for employers and employees to keep workplaces safe from sexual harassment.

All three bills passed unanimously and were signed into law by Gov. Jay Inslee.

# Moving from mass incarceration to mass employment in Wash.

By ERIC GONZÁLEZ ALFARO

In 2016, delegates to the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO convention approved Resolution #23, “Ending Mass Incarceration and Supporting Pathways to Reentry.” This year, the WSLC backed two bills that help our state move away from mass incarceration and put us on a path towards mass employment.

In Washington, people entering the criminal justice system owe an average of \$2,400 in Legal Financial Obligations. These fees, which accrue 12 percent interest, are intended to support the judicial system. But data shows that courts rarely collect these debts, which grow exponentially during and after incarceration, and instead often sell them for pennies on the dollar to collection agencies.

People with criminal records suffer higher unemployment and underemployment. Without income, they have little to no chance of paying their LFOs. Under state law, those who fail to pay their LFOs are sent back to prison. It’s a prison-to-debt-to-prison cycle.

That will change with the passage of HB 1783 (House Vote #20 and Sen-

ate Vote #11), sponsored by Reps. Jeff Holy (R-Cheney) and Roger Goodman (D-Kirkland). Under this new law, courts cannot sanction defendants for contempt or issue an arrest warrant unless their failure to pay is willful. The courts must also determine whether the defendant has the ability to pay at the time of sentencing.

**The Fair Chance Act** passed to “ban the box” in Washington (House Vote #17 and Senate Vote #10). Under HB 1298, by Rep. Lillian Ortiz-Self (D-Mukilteo), employers can ask about convictions at the second stage of the process—after an application is filled out and qualifications have been considered.

People with records suffer from pervasive discrimination in many areas of life, including employment, housing, education, and eligibility for many forms of social benefits. These bills will make our criminal justice system more equitable and move us away from “tough on crime” policies that have resulted in mass incarceration. Today, we embrace “smart on crime” strategies and restorative justice efforts that put us on a path toward mass employment.

## ‘Hope’ in 2018

Continued from Page 1

bargaining rates.

- Automatic voter registration upon license renewal and same-day voter registration will increase the voice of democracy in Washington.

Many of those bills waited for five years to see the light of day. Let’s keep the sun shining by supporting candidates who support working people.

The Legislature was not able to address the structural deficit that Washington state has suffered for more than a decade. We simply do not raise enough revenue to adequately pay for the needs of our society. This became painfully clear in the “Great Recession” of 2008 and every year since.

Republicans of today are stuck in the dead-end narrative that taxes and government spending are bad. They should remember the words of the first Republican, Abraham Lincoln: “The legitimate object of Government is to do for the people what needs to be done but for which they cannot by individual effort do at all, or do so well, by themselves.”

President Franklin D. Roosevelt quoted this from Lincoln in a 1936 speech and added his own statement that “taxes are the price we all pay collectively to get things done.”

FDR believed in the doctrine of democracy in taxation -- that taxes ought to be higher for those who can afford to pay them and less for those who can afford to pay less. If, as Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes said, “Taxes are the price we pay for civilized society,” and if we want a fair society then, according to FDR, taxes shall be levied according to ability to pay.”

This is an important principle for Democrats going into the 2019 session. We need to raise enough revenue to pay for a civilized society while lessening the burden on those who have less and taxing the wealthy fairly.

The wealthy in Washington state don’t come close to paying their fair share.

But some will argue, if we tax the rich more, they will leave our state. As FDR responded when this argument was made to him, “(we) shall miss them very much.” The point is the wealthy in our state can and

should pay a percentage of their income in taxes significantly greater than those in the bottom income quintile, but they don’t. And if they did, surely they would not have to dress in rags, forgo a latte, or send their children to public schools.

As climate destruction exacts greater costs to our environment, economy, health and property, more and more public revenue will have to be diverted from education, health care, mental health, state parks, etc. Climate change significantly raises the price of civilized society.

To counter this, we need to both fairly tax the wealthy and put a price on carbon emissions.

Gov. Jay Inslee and Sens. Reuven Carlyle, Guy Palumbo and Kevin Ranker, with support from Rep. Joe Fitzgibbon, made a valiant effort to pass a carbon tax during the 2018 session. Unfortunately, the resistance from the fossil fuel industry remained too great and Democratic majorities too slim to pass the bill out of the Senate.

In light of the legislative failure, The Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy, a coalition of labor, organizations of color and environmental groups, working closely with the tribes, has filed Initiative 1631. It would set a carbon fee on large emitters and use that revenue to create equity for low-income individuals, communities and displaced workers. It would leverage investments in the clean-energy economy and creating healthier air, forests and water. If I-1631 qualifies for the ballot and passes, it will significantly lower carbon emissions, and facilitate the transition to a clean-energy economy, while not leaving communities and individuals behind.



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN  
**Jeff Johnson**

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# Capital budget means good jobs

## Costly hostage crisis finally ends

As legislators convened in January, \$4.3 billion in job-creating public infrastructure projects had been held hostage by Senate Republicans for nearly a year over an unrelated water-rights issue.

This unprecedented injection of partisan politics into last year's capital budget approval meant that badly needed school construction, sewer improvements and other projects in communities across the state had been suspended, their costs increased, and thousands of jobs were not created.

With Democrats gaining control of the Senate, their party leaders in both houses vowed to move quickly to end this hostage crisis and pass the capital budget, which was one of the highest priorities of the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO in 2018.

That is exactly what happened. Within the first few weeks of the session, negotiators reached a compromise on the water-rights issue and approved the 2017-18 capital budget in January. But legislators weren't done yet. In the session's final days, a \$414 million supplemental capital construction budget was approved and signed by Gov. Jay Inslee to enhance those

earlier investments.

The WSLC is thankful that Democratic control of the Senate broke the logjam and allowed a fair vote on a capital budget that everyone from both parties supported. In particular, we thank Sen. David Frockt (D-Seattle) and Rep. Steve Tharinger (D-Sequim), who took the lead in writing their caucuses' capital budgets, and Rep. Pat Sullivan (D-Covington) who worked diligently to resolve the water-rights issue.

We are hopeful that this unprecedented and costly hijacking of our state's construction budget doesn't happen again in future years.

## Big wins for building trades

Building and construction trades workers scored some major legislative victories in 2018. The following were all signed into law by Gov. Jay Inslee:

■ **SB 5493**, prime sponsored by Sen. Steve Conway (D-Tacoma), establishes prevailing wage rates on public works projects based on collective bargaining agreements. Already done in eight other states, this practice will provide more accurate and consistent pay rates and save the state money by replacing the current cumbersome survey process, which incentivizes employers to under-report wages. It passed the Senate 32-15 (see Vote #3) and the House 53-45 (Vote #12).

■ **SB 6126**, sponsored by Sen. Rebecca Saldaña (D-Seattle) and supported by the IBEW, requires completion of an apprenticeship program to receive a journey level electrician certificate of competency. It passed the Senate 43-6 (Vote #17) and the House 62-36 (Vote #9).

■ **HB 1952**, sponsored by Rep. Brian Blake (D-Aberdeen) and also supported by the IBEW, permits cities that conduct electrical inspections to enforce electrical

licensing and certification requirements. It passed the House 96-0 and the Senate 45-4.

■ **HB 1672**, sponsored by Rep. Noel Frame (D-Seattle), is a bipartisan bill to "stop the clock" on the deadline for workers to recover wages owed to them under prevailing wage laws. It passed the House 98-0 and the Senate 38-11.

■ **HB 1673**, sponsored by Rep. Beth Doglio (D-Olympia), requires training in public works and prevailing wage standards to qualify as a responsible bidder. It passed the House 63-35 and the Senate 31-17.

■ **SB 5576**, sponsored by Sen. Karen Keiser (D-Kent), strengthens enforcement and compliance of the state's apprenticeship utilization standards. It passed the House 39-8 and the Senate 39-8.

■ **HB 1953**, sponsored by Rep. Laurie Dolan (D-Olympia), raises penalties for health-and-safety violations in the state (WISHA) to be at least what is charged by the federal government (OSHA). It passed the House 53-45 and the Senate 26-22.

## Hanford

Continued from Page 1

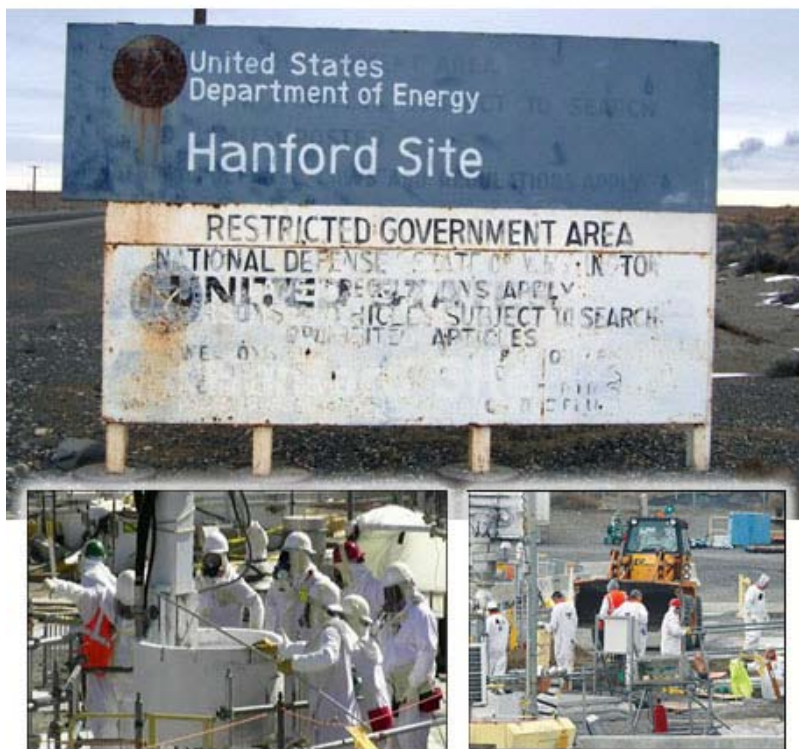
598 has led the charge to implement just that.

In 2017, Rep. Larry Halder (R-Richland) sponsored HB 1723, creating an occupational illness presumption for Hanford workers. It passed the House on a bipartisan vote, but died in the Senate committee chaired by Sen. Michael Baumgartner (R-Spokane).

This year, under the leadership of the Democratic-controlled Legislature, Halder and Sen. Karen Keiser (D-Kent) fought strong and swift to reintroduce and fast track the bill in both houses.

House Speaker Frank Chopp (D-Seattle) and Rep. Mike Sells (D-Everett), chair of the House labor committee, positioned HB 1723 for early floor action and on Jan. 11, just three days into the session, the House passed it 74-21 (see Vote #7). With Keiser, now Chair of the Senate labor committee, leading the charge, the Senate passed it 35-14 (Vote #1) on Jan. 25. After House concurrence with minor changes, Gov. Jay Inslee signed HB 1723 into law on March 7.

Hanford's story began with a mission for the benefit and protection of



this great country. Our selfless Nuclear Veterans continue that mission to this day, protecting our lands, our rivers, and our air.

Cleaning up 56 million gallons of radioactive waste will take at least another 50 years. During that time, Hanford workers will continue to be exposed to some of the most hazardous substances known to man.

In 2018, the Legislature's moral compass and strong advocacy by Local Union 598 and organized labor has led Hanford workers to more secure shores and has come to the aid of these proud citizens and their families.

*Nickolas Bumpaous is Political and Government Affairs Director of UA Local 598.*

## When we work together, we win

By MARK RIKER

The Washington State Building and Construction Trades Council entered the 2018 legislative session with two main goals in mind: to create jobs for our members, and to make sure those jobs are the best jobs possible. Due to the hard work of our affiliates and their members, and the labor committee chairs and their staffs, the building trades community of unions brought a lot home in 2018.

Had we only passed SB 5493, sponsored by Sen. Steve Conway (D-Tacoma), which sets prevailing wages using collective bargaining agreements, we would have been pleased. Had the only bills passed been SB 5493 and the SSB 1723, the Hanford workers' compensation bill sponsored by Rep. Larry Halder (R-Richland), we would have been very pleased. Happily, I can report that those two high priority bills are now law.

But we didn't stop there.

Building trades unions supported passage of bills improving enforcement of apprenticeship utilization laws so that the next generation of trades men and women gain the skills needed to maintain and build our state's infrastructure (HB 1849). When that infrastructure is built, contractors will get some basic training courses to ensure they know the rules and laws that support our wages and our training opportunities (HB 1673). And if they fail to pay the prevailing wage, workers will no longer get caught up in complicated complaint filing deadlines while L&I investigates (HB 1672).

We need to properly direct our thanks, and I'll start by thanking each and every person who supported, campaigned, leafleted, walked and stood up for Manka Dhingra to be elected senator of the 45th Legislative District last fall. That allowed all of the good work of so many over the past five years to come to fruition this session. Majorities matter. It is a great testament to the fact that when we as a labor movement do the work, have patience, and persevere, our good works will be rewarded.

While we do not always see eye to eye with each other, within our trades unions, and within the labor movement over all, the successes of the 2018 show what is possible when we work together, and support each other.

Now, let's get back to work.

*Mark Riker is Executive Secretary of the Washington State Building Trades.*

## Pesticide drift study will explore how to protect workers, community

By ERIC GONZÁLEZ ALFARO

The Legislature passed ESB 6529, sponsored by Sen. Rebecca Saldaña (D-Seattle), which establishes a workgroup to identify ways to prevent pesticide drift exposure, including pre-application notification and post-application reporting. The group will report its findings, recommendations, and draft legislation to the governor and legislative committees by Nov. 1, 2018.

Between 2010 and 2016, more than half of the 537 recorded incident of pesticide illness among farmworkers were a result of drift — meaning the pesticides failed

to land on the intended target. We know based on data that pesticides are toxic, that advance communication is lacking in the industry, and that air blast sprayers and aerial applications pose higher risk for drift.

While we support more training for applicators, just 5 percent of the root causes of pesticide illness among farmworkers is a result of the applicator not properly trained or supervised — the two highest root causes are drift and ineffective or nonexistent notification.

While these cases alone are of great concern, the true number of cases is likely much higher because

many incidents go unreported. Farmworkers in particular may refrain from seeking health care for pesticide-related illness because of the cost of time away from work, the cost of medical care, and fear of retaliation including potential job loss.

In order to maintain a strong agricultural economy, workers need healthy working conditions and proper protections. This workgroup is critically important as we look to national and global strategies around notification and pesticide use reporting systems that can help achieve those goals.



# SENATE

● — “Right” vote ○ — “Wrong” vote E — Excused A — Absent (Democrats are listed in **bold**.)

**1** HB 1723 (Haler)—**Hanford occupational disease**; presumption that certain illnesses are work-related for workers’ comp purposes. Right vote: YES (Passed 35-14 on Jan. 25.)

**2** SB 6231 (Kuderer)—**Unfair Labor Practice statute of limitations** clarification. Right vote: YES (Passed 27-20 on Feb. 9.)

**3** SB 5493 (Conway)—**Setting prevailing wages by Collective Bargaining Agreements**. Right vote: YES (Passed 32-15 on Feb. 12.)

**4** SB 6529 (Saldaña)—**Pesticide application safety**; establishing a study group to make legislative recommendations. Right vote: YES (Passed 45-2 on Feb. 12.)

**5** SB 6229 (Van De Wege)—**Providing union access for New Employee Orientations** to explain union members’ rights and responsibilities. Right vote: YES (Passed 27-20 on Feb. 12.)

**6** SB 6230 (Conway)—**Establishing collective bargaining rights for professional employees at the ports**. Right vote: YES (Passed 29-18 on Feb. 12.)

**7** HB 1237 (Sells)—**Expanding wage bargaining for community/technical college faculty**. Right vote: YES (Passed 27-21 on Feb. 27.)

**8** HB 2669 (Doglio)—**Granting civil service protections for part-time workers**. Right vote: YES (Passed 27-21 on Feb. 28.)

**9** HB 2751 (Stonier)—**Granting immediate union rights and dues deduction** for public employees unless they opt out. Right vote: YES (Passed 26-22 on Feb. 28.)

**10** HB 1298 (Ortiz-Self)—**“Ban the Box”** job application protections re: arrests and convictions. Right vote: YES (Passed 33-16 on Feb. 28.)

**11** HB 1783 (Holy)—**Legal Financial Obligations**. Right vote: YES (Passed 32-17 on Feb. 28.)

**12** HB 1488 (Hansen)—**Dream Act 2.0**, expanding higher education opportunities. Right vote: YES (Passed 34-15 on March 1.)

**13** HB 1336 (Kirby)—**Workers’ compensation Social Security offset**. Right vote: YES (Passed 48-0 on March 2.)

**14** HB 1849 (Sells)—**Apprenticeship utilization**. Right vote: YES (Passed 37-12 on March 2.)

**15** SB 6219 (Hobbs)—**Reproductive health coverage**. Right vote: YES (Passed 27-22 on March 3.)

**16** SB 6002 (Saldaña)—**Washington Voting Rights Act**. Right vote: YES (Passed 29-20 on March 5.)

**17** SB 6126 (Saldaña)—**Electrical apprenticeships**. Right vote: YES (Passed 43-6 on March 5.)

**18** SB 6245 (Saldaña)—**Expanding collective bargaining rights for interpreters** at state agencies. Right vote: YES (Passed 32-16 on March 6.)

**19** HB 1506 (Senn)—**Equal Pay Opportunity Act**. Right vote: YES (Passed 36-12 on March 6.)

**20** HB 2595 (Hudgins)—**Automatic voter registration**. Right vote: YES (Passed 27-21 on March 6.)

Senator	Dis.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	2018 %	LIFE-TIME
Angel	26	○	○	○	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	15	18
Bailey	10	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	15	14
Baumgartner	6	●	E	E	E	E	E	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	43	17
Becker	2	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	15	15
<b>Billig</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>98</b>
Braun	20	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	25	15
Brown	8	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	25	14
<b>Carlyle</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>Chase</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>Cleveland</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>Conway</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Darneille</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>Dhingra</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Ericksen	42	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	10	15
Fain	47	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	75	31
Fortunato	31	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	45	41
<b>Froct</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>Hasegawa</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>99</b>
Hawkins	12	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	50	27
<b>Hobbs</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>69</b>
Honeyford	15	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	10	8
<b>Hunt</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>Keiser</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>96</b>
King	14	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	45	22
<b>Kuderer</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Senator	Dis.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	2018 %	LIFE-TIME
<b>Liias</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>McCoy</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>95</b>
Miloscia	30	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	95	82
<b>Mullet</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Nelson</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>98</b>
O’Ban	28	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	50	30
Padden	4	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	10	8
<b>Palumbo</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>Pedersen</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>Ranker</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>96</b>
Rivers	18	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	20	18
<b>Rolfes</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>Saldaña</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Schoesler	9	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	20	13
<i>Sheldon</i>	<i>35</i>	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	<i>50</i>	<i>28</i>
Short	7	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	10	11
<b>Takko</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>Van De Wege</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>90</b>
Wagoner	39	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	10	10
Walsh	16	○	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	90	33
Warnick	13	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	25	15
<b>Wellman</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>●</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>97</b>
Wilson	17	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	15	17
Zeiger	25	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	60	41

## Which legislators sponsored bills that didn’t get votes

Lots of bills

# HOUSE

● — “Right” vote ○ — “Wrong” vote E — Excused A — Absent (Democrats are listed in **bold**.)

**1** HB 1715 (Ricelli)—Guaranteeing **hospital worker breaks and restricting overtime**. Right vote: YES (Passed 56-42 on Jan. 11.)

**2** HB 1336 (Kirby)—**Workers’ compensation Social Security offset**. Right vote: YES (Passed 65-33 on Feb. 7.)

**3** HB 1849 (Sells)—**Apprenticeship utilization**. Right vote: YES (Passed 97-0 on Feb. 8.)

**4** HB 2669 (Doglio)—**Granting civil service protections for part-time workers**. Right vote: YES (Passed 50-47 on Feb. 12.)

**5** HB 2751 (Stonier)—**Granting immediate union rights and dues deduction** for public employees unless they opt out. Right vote: YES (Passed 50-48 on Feb. 12.)

**6** HB 1851 (Dolan)—**Accountability and transparency in government contracting**. Right vote: YES (Passed 52-45 on Feb. 12.)

**7** HB 1723 (Haler)—**Hanford occupational disease**; presumption that certain illnesses are work-related for

workers’ comp purposes. Right vote: YES (Passed 74-21 on Feb. 19.)

**8** SB 6002 (Saldaña)—**Washington Voting Rights Act**. Right vote: YES (Passed 52-46 on Feb. 27.)

**9** SB 6126 (Saldaña)—**Electrical apprenticeships**. Right vote: YES (Passed 62-36 on Feb. 27.)

**10** SB 6229 (Van De Wege)—**Providing union access for New Employee Orientations** to explain union members’ rights and responsibilities. Right vote: YES (Passed 58-40 on Feb. 27.)

**11** SB 6230 (Conway)—**Establishing collective bargaining rights for professional employees at the ports**. Right vote: YES (Passed 56-42 on Feb. 27.)

**12** SB 5493 (Conway)—**Setting prevailing wages by Collective Bargaining Agreements**. Right vote: YES (Passed 53-45 on Feb. 28.)

**13** SB 6529 (Saldaña)—**Pesticide application safety**; creating a study group to make legislative recommendations. Right vote: YES (Passed 57-41 on Feb. 28.)

**14** SB 6219 (Hobbs)—**Reproductive health coverage**. Right vote: YES (Passed 50-48 on Feb. 28.)

**15** SB 6245 (Saldaña)—**Expanding collective bargaining rights for interpreters** at state agencies. Right vote: YES (Passed 53-44 on March 1.)

**16** SB 6231 (Kuderer)—**Unfair Labor Practice statute of limitations** clarification. Right vote: YES (Passed 50-48 on March 2.)

**17** HB 1298 (Ortiz-Self)—**“Ban the Box”** job application protections re: arrests and convictions. Right vote: YES (Passed 52-44 on March 3.)

**18** HB 1488 (Hansen)—**Dream Act 2.0**; expanding higher education opportunities. Right vote: YES (Passed 59-37 on March 3.)

**19** HB 1237 (Sells)—**Expanding wage bargaining for community/technical college faculty**. Right vote: YES (Passed 57-41 on March 5.)

**20** HB 1783 (Holy)—**Legal Financial Obligation reform**. Right vote: YES (Passed 83-15 on March 6.)

**21** HB 1506 (Senn)—**Equal Pay Opportunity Act**. Right vote: YES (Passed 70-28 on March 7.)

**22** HB 2595 (Hudgins)—**Automatic voter registration**. Right vote: YES (Passed 50-48 on March 7.)

Representative	Dis.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	2018 %	LIFE-TIME
Appleton	23	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	99
Barkis	2	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	18	23
Bergquist	11	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	100
Blake	19	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	92
Buyts	42	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	14	13
Caldier	26	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	27	29
Chandler	15	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	14	10
Chapman	24	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	100
Chopp	43	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	92
Clibborn	41	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	85
Cody	34	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	96
Condotta	12	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	9	13
DeBolt	20	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	9	14
Dent	13	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	9	13
Doglio	22	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	100
Dolan	22	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	100
Dye	9	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	9	13
Eslick	39	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	18	18
Fey	27	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	100
Fitzgibbon	34	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	99
Frame	36	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	100
Goodman	45	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	97
Graves	5	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	41	46
Gregerson	33	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	98
Griffey	35	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	36	25
Haler	8	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	32	28
Hansen	23	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	99
Hargrove	47	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	9	13
Harmsworth	44	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	18	20
Harris	17	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	14	25
Hayes	10	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	32	25
Holy	6	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	14	17
Hudgins	11	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	96
Irwin	31	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	36	37
Jenkin	16	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	9	11
Jinkins	27	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	93
Johnson	14	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	23	19
Kagi	32	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	91
Kilduff	28	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	100
Kirby	29	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	99
Klippert	8	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	14	11
Kloba	1	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	100
Kraft	17	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	14	20
Kretz	7	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	9	12
Kristiansen	39	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	18	13
Lovick	44	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	96
Lytton	40	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	99
MacEwan	35	○	○	○	E	○	E	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	30	25
Macri	43	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	100
Manweller	13	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	14	19
Maycumber	7	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	14	14
McBride	48	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	100
McCabe	14	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	23	25
McCaslin	4	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	5	9
McDonald	25	○	○	○	○	○	○	E	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	24	27
Morris	40	●	●	●	●	●	●	E	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	100	84
Muri	28	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○												



# School funding, negotiating rights – at last

Campaign materials for Republicans and Democrats nearly always tout the candidates' strong support for public education. Yet, with a divided Legislature over the past several years, the slogans on campaign literature never materialized into real progress on funding our state's schools.

This year was different. With Democratic majorities in both the House and Senate, we saw improvements in the system from kindergarten through college.

Top among the improvements in the K-12 system was money to increase teacher salaries, funding for special education, changes to the appropriations model from last year that will ensure school districts don't lose revenue, and additional funding to support Running Start students.

Our state's higher education system was made stronger this session, opening up opportunities to students to pursue college. Chief among these was the passage of HB 1488, ensuring Dreamers have access to state financial aid, regardless of the barriers the federal government may impose (see Page 7).

Last session's failure to pass a capital budget impacted our two-year

colleges as well. This year, the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges received their full capital budget request, meaning needed major and minor construction and design projects can finally get done.

Community and technical college faculty have had some collective bargaining rights for decades. They've been organized into collective bargaining units almost since the two-year system was established. While faculty in every one of our two-year colleges are members of the AFT

or the WEA, they haven't shared the same right to bargain salary increases that teachers in the four-year college and K-12 systems have. Faculty in the two-year system have had to rely on appropriations from the Legislature for salary increases. That's meant wages have essentially stagnated for teachers in our community and technical college system.

Our two-year college system is chronically underfunded. These are the colleges that students from working-class backgrounds can afford to attend, that provide related instructional content for many apprenticeship programs, that were established to respond quickly to provide technical and professional



Secretary  
Treasurer's Column  
**Lynne Dodson**



AFT Washington members visit the State Capitol to lobby in support of HB 1237.

training in new employment areas, and that are in nearly every region of our state. They've been underfunded and neglected for decades. And while tuition costs have risen in our two-year and four-year colleges, community and technical college faculty and staff have watched any extra funds colleges have managed to save get siphoned into the creation of more administrative positions, and higher salaries for those in the top positions.

This year, after more than a decade of attempts to open up the possibility of bargaining for salary increases

at the local level, the Legislature finally passed HB 1237 enabling college faculty to bargain local college funds for salaries. During testimony on HB 1237, lawmakers heard from faculty who care deeply about their students and their schools, who are leaving the profession they love because they can't afford to teach.

HB 1237, sponsored by Rep. Mike Sells (D-Everett), doesn't automatically give two-year college faculty the raises they deserve. But it gives them the right to fairly negotiate their salaries. At last.



Members of Interpreters United Local 1671 (WFSE) supported SB 6245 at their lobby day on Jan. 26.

## Public employees achieve ambitious agenda

By JOE KENDO

The 2018 legislative session provided an opportunity for public sector workers to move legislation that has long stagnated due to intransigence from Senate Republicans. With a pro-worker majority, including new committee chairs, now leading the Senate, legislation supporting public workers and their unions finally made it to the governor's desk.

In preparation for a U.S. Supreme Court decision in the *Janus v. AFSCME* public sector "right-to-work" case, state employees, nurses, fire fighters, city and county workers, police officers, spoken language interpreters, port employees, and teachers linked arms to harden their bargaining rights against this attack. Legislation passed due to the hard work of these groups will help keep unions strong in a post-Janus environment (HB 2751 sponsored by Rep. Monica Stonier), guarantee new employees access to union orientations so that they understand their rights (SB 6229 by Sen. Kevin Van de Wege), and will expand access to collective bargaining rights to part-time workers (HB 2669 by Sen. Beth Doglio), certain port employees (SB 6230 by Sen. Steve Conway), and spoken language interpreters (SB 6245 by Sen. Rebecca Saldaña).

Further, as a follow-up to the important work accomplished during the 2017 session

to comply with the McCleary decision, legislators included the necessary funds in their 2018 supplemental budget to get educator compensation back on track. Training requirements for Paraeducators (6388 – Mullet) were clarified, and state unemployment insurance for educators was brought in to conformity with new Federal rules (HB 2703 – Sells) to better protect school employees when future work is not guaranteed.

Finally, and significantly, after many years of hard work and organizing, workers who provide nursing care to patients in state mental health hospitals and prisons will finally be allowed membership in the Public Safety Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) with the passage of HB 1558 (Kilduff). Previously available only to non-commissioned law enforcement employees, like correctional officers, now workers with similarly physically jobs will be able to retire a little early without penalty.

Demonstrating the power of standing together, across the state, across unions, and across job sites, public workers achieved significant wins this session. All of these bills will go a long way toward improving the lives of public workers, while also building strength for future efforts, like protecting public workers from invasions of privacy through frivolous public disclosure requests, and limiting wasteful outsourcing of public work.

## Some progress on health care

Some progress was made on important health care issues in 2018.

- HB 1523, sponsored by Rep. June Robinson (D-Everett), requires health plans to cover the same preventive services currently required under federal law. This locks in place patient protections under the Affordable Care Act, which continues to be under threat of repeal by President Trump and Congressional Republicans. It passed the House 56-38 and the Senate 27-22 and was signed by Gov. Jay Inslee.

- SB 6219, by Sen. Steve Hobbs (D-Lake Stevens), requires all health plans that cover maternity care to also cover contraceptive care. This will ensure that women from every income bracket have access to such care. It passed the House 50-48 (Vote #14) and the Senate 27-22 (Vote #15) and was signed into law.

The bad news is that little progress was made in the ultimate goal: universal health care for all. The WSLC will continue to work toward this goal.

## Agreement reached to revise police use-of-force standards, but judge orders I-940 to ballot

Last year, the Washington State Labor Council endorsed an Initiative to the Legislature (I-940) to reform existing police use-of-force standards that make it nearly impossible to prosecute officers who unjustly use deadly force. After collecting the necessary signatures, the issue was put before the 2018 Legislature.

Ultimately, an agreement was reached between I-940 supporters and police groups that was approved by legislators. Current law protects officers as long as they act in good faith and "without malice," which is nearly impossible to prove. The new standard replaces the malice test with a new "good faith" standard that asks whether a "similarly situated reasonable officer" would have determined deadly force was necessary.

At press time, a Thurston County judge ruled that legislators violated the state constitution by approving and immediately amending I-940 with the agreed-to language. The judge ordered the original language of I-940 must be put before voters in November.



# DREAM Act 2.0 maintains access to higher education

By GRACIELA NUNEZ PARGAS

In another win for the progressive labor movement, undocumented youth are now eligible for the College Bound scholarships regardless of immigration status. HB 1488, prime sponsored by Rep. Drew Hansen (D-Bainbridge Is.), known as the “DREAM Act 2.0,” changes the residency requirement for students to be eligible for in-state college tuition grants. It became law after three years of student advocacy, community engagement, and coalition building. Labor partnered with all stakeholders to advance the bill in a strong bipartisan fashion (House Vote #18 and Senate Vote #12).

The DREAM Act 2.0 passed during a critical moment in our nation’s history with the uprising of youth-led activism and an increased visibility of intersectional movements. Our state leaders stood in support of immigrant students by strengthening scholarship programs that reflect our diverse schools. Together, we leveled the playing field for student

achievement in the College Bound scholarship program.

To qualify, a student must be in 7th or 8th grade and meet the income requirements for enrollment in the free or reduced school meals program. The student must sign the “College Bound Pledge” committing to maintain a 2.0 GPA, have no felony convictions, and attend a state higher education institution within a year of graduating high school. The College Bound program helps underprivileged students receive academic resources and financial support as they pursue a degree.

From the time a student is in middle school until their college graduation, the College Bound program believes every student can succeed without having their financial background dictate an uncertain future. Similarly, immigrant families prioritize education because it offers a pathway for their children to attain upward social mobility. Going to college is one strategy for first-generation students as they attempt to break the cycle of pov-



(From left) Maribel Montes de Oca, Graciela Nunez Pargas, Salvador Salazar and Paul Quinonez at a Jan. 24 press event for DREAM Act 2.0.

erty burdening their families. A student’s immigration status should not doom their prospects of joining an educated and professional workforce.

The labor community understands the plight of disenfranchised groups because our histories intersect with a shared struggle for justice. We fight for gender pay equity, health care access and

affordability, bargaining rights, workplace safety, and other issues that help working-class families. As we strive towards healthier and safer communities, we have to continue working against the spread of fear and discrimination. The DREAM Act 2.0 moves us closer to more equitable practices by promoting educational opportunities for all.

## On race, the WVRA and dog-whistle politics

By ERIC GONZÁLEZ ALFARO

We can no longer endure the concept of race-neutral, color blind, or what should be more accurately described as *race ignorant*. Our cultural and ethnic identities deserve to be acknowledged and are relevant in shaping public policy.

While the House debated the Washington Voting Rights Act, a handful of Republicans delivered floor speeches that were openly demeaning and riddled with dog-whistle commentary on race and identity.

“We need to protect the small towns... We need to protect those small players, where people are involved for the best reasons to try make their communities better places to live, work and raise families... **We forget that the small towns in Washington are in many ways the backbone and the culture of the things that make this state such a great place to live.**” — Rep. Jim Walsh

Walsh misses the point of the Washington Voting Rights Act. His remarks shed a light on “the little guy” he’s speaking for: the status quo that refuses to see that the world around him is much larger and rapidly changing. It is precisely this inequitable myopic vision that leads to lawsuits and needless costs.

The WVRA allows local governments to restructure their voting systems to better reflect the diversity of the community, but most importantly, it resolves issues around polarized voting where marginalized communities will finally have a voice in their democracy, without first going to court. The WVRA is also not about

electing a person of color to represent communities of color. It is about electing a candidate that understands the breadth of challenges impacting communities that have long been ignored, marginalized, or silenced in the process – systemically.

Workers in the fast food industry, janitors, sanitation workers, hospice and construction workers, teachers and farm workers – they are the backbone of small communities, yet they are not a monolith.

“What if there’s not anyone that looks like me running for this office? To me it has nothing to do with what they look like. I don’t care about the color of someone’s skin... **There are people across this aisle who have a different color skin than I do, and I love them dearly and I enjoy working with them...** What it has to do with is what are their policies, their values, their belief systems – that’s what I vote for; not the color of their skin.” — Rep. Brad Klippert

Meanwhile, Klippert prime sponsored the “English Language Empowerment Act,” which states: “Command of the English language is necessary to participate in and take full advantage of the opportunities afforded by **American life**. Absent a rudimentary command of the English language, citizens **are unable to make their voices heard by the legislative process**, effectively exercise their right to vote, or fully understand the rights afforded them by the United States and Washington Constitutions.”

I beg to differ. Meeting the definition of American, if there is just one, must not be premised on command of the English language, nor should we pretend that

constituents are to blame for their exclusion from the legislative process. Offensive rhetoric like this routinely occurs in Olympia, yet many don’t notice it, except for those of us who’ve experienced and had to navigate micro-aggressions, institutionalized racism, gate-keeping and silent compliance. We hear and see it daily.

Others are more direct in their dismissiveness and will go to extraordinary leaps of logic to justify an inequitable voting system:

“This bill is an insult to people of color and minorities. **This bill says to you, if you are a minority person, we don’t think you are smart enough, attractive enough as a candidate, and good enough to get elected in our traditional election system.**” —Rep. Liz Pike

Earlier in session, a lobbyist I respect approached me and facetiously remarked, “This must be a hearing on one of your bills.” The room was packed with Spanish speaking language interpreters, many of them Latino. They were not people I organized and, in fact, were on the opposite side of my issue.

I cannot tell you how often issues we advocate for, that are around racial equity or immigrant justice, are better received, seen as altruistic, when they come from white men or white women but seen as self-serving when these appeals come from people that have come from these communities.

When we seek to grow our diversity and equity, especially in positions of influence, we shouldn’t put restrictions on when it’s convenient to be our full selves. If we do, we have to ask—for whom is it a problem and why?



Surrounded by supporters of the Washington Voting Rights Act, Gov. Jay Inslee signs SB 6002 into law on March 19.

## Voting rights

Continued from Page 1

Fair representation was an issue in Yakima, where nearly 40 percent of the population is Latino, yet no Latinos had ever been elected to the city council. The U.S. District Court found in 2014 that Yakima’s at-large voting system disenfranchised Latino voters and diluted their voting power. After this costly lawsuit, Yakima moved to a district-based election in 2015, and three Latinas were promptly elected. The WVRA allows other communities to take similar actions without waiting to get sued.

Another bill in the Access to Democracy package was the DISCLOSE Act, sponsored by Sen. Andy Billig (D-Spokane). SB 5991 requires nonprofit organizations that donate more than \$10,000

a year to political campaigns to register with the state’s Public Disclosure Commission and report their contributions. This will shine a light on “dark money” funneled through political committees and create better informed voters.

The three remaining bills make it easier to register to vote by allowing people to register up to and on Election Day, letting 16- and 17-year-olds pre-register to vote, and creating automatic voter registration for citizens obtaining enhanced driver’s licenses or identification cards through the Department of Licensing.

While Republicans across the U.S. are focused on making it harder to vote (discriminatory Voter ID laws and restricted voting hours) and disenfranchising voters (gerrymandering, rigged voting systems), Washington state is leading the charge in the opposite direction: promoting voting.



# Budget boosts teacher pay

Supplemental budgets usually just tweak the biennial budget approved the previous year. But in 2018, thanks to savings/efficiencies and a strong economy that is generating desperately needed state revenue, SB 6032 was able to invest a substantial \$941 million in schools, public safety, mental health, natural resources and to help vulnerable people. It also maintained a \$2.4 billion reserve, the largest in state history, as a hedge against an economic downturn.

The biggest boost was \$776 million dedicated to improving teacher salaries, which builds upon the progress made last year to address the *McCleary* decision. Improving K-12 teacher pay was a specific directive of that state Supreme Court order, and this money will accel-

erate that critically important effort.

“Thanks to the hard work and persistence of WEA members, we’ve won billions of dollars in new funding for education—mainly for competitive salaries so we can continue attracting and keeping caring, qualified and committed educators for our students,” said Kim Mead, president of the Washington Education Association. “Now is our opportunity to join together and negotiate substantial pay raises for all of our members.”

The 2018 supplemental budget also:

- Boosts investments in public health care and mental health by more than \$200 million;

- Funds the expansion of the Public Safety Employees’ Retirement System to include workers in high-risk jobs at

DSHS, veterans and correctional institutions. This was a priority for the Teamsters, WFSE/AFSCME Council 28, and SEIU HealthCare 1199NW;

- Funds an external audit of staffing levels at corrections facilities. Another priority for the Teamsters union, this is the first step in addressing clear understaffing issues at state prisons;

- Includes \$28.2 million to fight and prevent wildfires; and

- Brings funding for the Labor Education and Research Center at South Seattle College up to \$500,000.

The budget also cuts property taxes by \$390 million over the next two years to mitigate the property tax increase proposed by Republicans in 2017 and included in the biennial budget.

## Another punt on our upside-down tax code

By JOE KENDO

Washington is a great place to live, with strong communities, beautiful natural resources for recreation and healthy living, and a robust economy with good wages. However, the people of our state also suffer under the most regressive, backwards, and upside-down tax code in the nation. While certain legislators worked to inject a little more justice into the system this year, the Legislature largely failed to address this threat to equality, equity, and economic justice.

The Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy reports that people earning less than \$21,000 per year pay nearly 17 percent of their income on state and local taxes in our state. Meanwhile, top earners making more than \$500,000 a year pay an abysmally low 2.4 percent. This is because we rely on a sales tax that hits working families hardest to pay for vital public services—services that were deeply cut during the Great Recession. Coupled with hundreds of special tax breaks for corporations, working families are paying more and getting less out of their government.

Several bills were introduced to help improve this state of affairs, but precious little was accomplished.

SB 5513, sponsored by Sen. David Frockt (D-Seattle), aimed to improve transparency regarding special tax breaks by increasing the frequency of Department of Revenue reporting, and requiring the Economic Review and Forecast Council to include the fiscal impact of special tax breaks in its November economic outlook. But even this modest measure failed to make it to the governor’s desk.

And while the discussion advanced on creating new sources of progressive revenue—like Rep. Kristine Lytton’s (D-Anacortes) HB 2967 closing the loophole on profits from capital gains—legislators pushed to use those funds to offset other sources of revenue, providing some equity, but failing to recognize and address our structural revenue deficit.

Even in Seattle, which has added more than 200,000 jobs in the last decade, the fundamental injustice of our tax code has strained the city’s ability to meet the needs of its residents. Adjusted for inflation, Seattle spends about \$110 less per resident than it did in 2008. The city has few options to fund programs in an equitable way, and as local governments are shouldered with increasing responsibility to meet the social and economic needs of the people, they often must turn to regressive revenue options.

The responsibility to fix this problem lays with the Legislature. Cleaning up our tax code should start with closing wasteful tax breaks that fail to support good jobs. We also must ensure that our wealthiest pay their fair share. A modest tax on capital gains—profits made from the sale of stocks and bonds—with common-sense exemptions to protect retirees and certain small businesses, would raise hundreds of millions of dollars to support vital state services, while not further burdening working families, retirees and low-wage earners.



Hundreds showed up in Yakima for a celebration at the UFCW Local 1439 union hall on March 31 to watch Gov. Jay Inslee sign HB 1939, sponsored by Rep. Zack Hudgins (D-Tukwila), designate that day as an official Washington state holiday recognizing Cesar Chavez, the legendary farm worker advocate, UFW co-founder and social justice defender.

## More good laws, future laws

Any other year, the following bills would merit detailed stories explaining why they are so important. But 2018 was an extraordinarily busy session for working families, so here’s a quick round-up of some key bills:

### PASSED!

- **WORKERS’ COMPENSATION SOCIAL SECURITY OFFSETS (HB 1336, Rep. Steve Kirby, D-Tacoma)** — As retired workers return to the workforce part time to make ends meet, work injury rates among older workers have increased. HB 1336 would end the practice of offsetting time-loss wage replacement for injured workers who also collect Social Security benefits, as these workers already face financial challenges. It passed the House 65-33 (Vote #2) and the Senate 48-0 (Vote #13) and was signed by Gov. Jay Inslee.

- **UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS (SB 6231, Sen. Patty Kuderer, D-Bellevue)** — This labor-backed bill clarifies that the statute of limitations for an unfair labor practice complaint filed in a Superior Court is six months. In 2017, the state Supreme Court ruled that the time limit only applied to PERC complaints, but not for ULPs before the Superior Court. This fixes that. It passed the Senate 27-20 (Vote #2) and the House 50-48 (Vote #16) and was signed into law.

### See you in 2019...

- **HOSPITAL WORKER BREAKS AND OVERTIME (HB 1715, Rep. Marcus Riccelli, D-Spokane)** — Healthcare facilities should ensure that nurses and healthcare technical workers are guaranteed access to the breaks and overtime they have earned. This bill would ensure

those providing the best care are healthy, rested, and less prone to mistake-causing fatigue. Having passed the House last year, it was quickly approved again 56-42 on Jan. 11 (Vote#1), but got bogged down in the Senate amid opposition by hospitals and their lobbying groups, and never got a floor vote.

- **TAXPAYER ACCOUNTABILITY ACT (HB 1851, Rep. Laurie Dolan, D-Olympia)** — This would introduce some common-sense standards to increase transparency and accountability when a state agency considers outsourcing public work. It passed the House 52-45 (Vote #6), and passed the Senate State Government committee but never got a floor vote.

- **RESTRICTING NON-COMPETES (HB 2903, Rep. Derek Stanford, D-Everett)** -- Legislation to regulate and restrict noncompetition agreements, which are binding legal documents are used to restrict workers’ ability to change jobs, while protecting legitimate intellectual property concerns of businesses. It passed the House Labor & Workforce Standards Committee, but never got a floor vote.

- **RAILROAD STAFFING (HB 1669)** -- To prevent devastating fatigue-caused train derailment accidents, railroad companies should have to meet minimum staffing levels, especially for trains containing hazardous materials. Passed House Labor & Workforce Standards, but no floor vote.

- **CAMPUS POLICE ARBITRATION (HB 1559, Rep. Roger Goodman, D-Kirkland)** — This provides binding interest arbitration for duly sworn police officers employed as members of a police force established by state and regional universities. Passed the House 82-13; passed both Senate Labor & Commerce and Ways & Means; but no floor vote