

# WEA Board of Directors Report

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Corner Uniserv

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## WEA Survey for Voters & Members

The Washington Education Association conducted a survey last November with 500 active WEA members and last December with 603 Washington state voters.

The WEA members' number one priority was for the state "to make a significant down payment in 2007 on the need to increase state funding".

The Washington voters stated that their number one priority was "to expand career & technical opportunities for students not interested in a college de-

gree". The majority of voters and members said that they were "definitely willing" or "somewhat willing" to increase taxes if the revenue was used to provide a stable and adequate source of funding.

Coming soon.....

### All WEA Member Survey

January 29th through February 9th

\*Survey will be e-mailed to members with known home e-mail addresses, or log on to [www.washingtonea.org/mysurvey](http://www.washingtonea.org/mysurvey)

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## Tax Fairness Coalition

The Board heard a presentation from Barbara Fly, Executive Director of the Tax Fairness Coalition. The WEA is one of 70 organizations throughout the state joining forces who share a core belief that our state's tax system should be fair, sufficient, stable, transparent and publicly-accountable. The coalition includes education, health, policy, labor, senior, civic, social justice, environmental and faith-based organizations. Fundamentally reforming our state's regressive tax system is an enormous undertaking.

This past fall, the Washington Tax Fairness Coalition played a leading role in the successful defeat of Initiative 920, which would have repealed Washington's estate tax. The coalition is now developing a legislative package for the 2007 session and a steering committee to embark on a strategic planning process to bring about broader and more fundamental reform.

For more information contact: [www.WATaxFairness.org](http://www.WATaxFairness.org)

## Communities for Quality Education

Founded in 2002, Communities for Quality Education, is a national education advocacy group, which seeks to build a partnership between people inside and outside of the education community who

share a common goal of building better public schools for children.

The immediate focus of this group is our collective concern about the so-called No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law and its implementa-

tion.

The long-term goal for the Communities for Quality Education is to address the continuing public policy for public schools.

WEA has been a contributing member since the group was founded.

## Local WEA-PAC Drives Continue

To date, WEA-PAC membership has increased by 14.5% over last year. Locals continue to ask members to join WEA-PAC. Although locals may have drives for a specific amount of time, membership is ongoing throughout the year. Starting next year, all members may sign up

for payroll deduction and will then remain WEA-PAC members unless they opt out. This will return practices to what occurred previous to 1992 with changes in the state law.

During this past election, WEA's five-targeted Senate races, all won. The 19 WEA

endorsed races also accounted for 15 wins. In the House, one out of one targeted race won, and 65 out of 76 endorsed races won. Targeted and endorsed races were for pro-education candidates of both the democratic and republican parties.

WEA-PAC funds do make a difference!

### Briefs...

The WEA Board approved the affiliation of the United Faculty of Western Washington University with the Washington Education Association. This increase WEA membership by 750 members.

Our NEA directors' report that the mood in Washington D.C. has changed as a result of the November elections. "It is better to be on offense than defense", stated our NEA Government Relations staff.

February 16th was **WEA Lobby Day** in Olympia. Forth Corner members joined over 125 WEA members & staff to speak with our legislators about compensation, pensions, class size, full day kindergarten and "*delay, fix & fund*" the WASL.